

Deluxe 13 day - Budapest, Vienna & Prague

DAY 1: BUDAPEST. Upon arrival into Budapest, you will be met and privately transferred to the **Four Seasons Gresham Palace**. A deluxe hotel, set in an Art Nouveau landmark, featuring all modern comforts, the Four Seasons has an excellent location and panoramic vistas of the Danube and the hills of Buda. Three nights are reserved in a Premium king bedded room with a sitting area and a Danube view.

- We have confirmed 2 tickets at the Hungarian State Opera. Please note that the performance starts at 7.00 PM and ends around 9-9.30 PM. If you want to have an early dinner, the Gresham Kavehaz's restaurant serves all day. The Opera is approximately a 15-minute walk from the hotel or a 5-minute cab ride.

DAY 2: BUDAPEST. This morning at 9.00 AM, you will depart from your hotel for a half-day of sightseeing with a private car and an English-speaking guide. You will see the main sights of Budapest. Actually two separate cities – Buda is the more interesting of the two; Pest is the more modern city. You'll have a good view of the city and the Danube from the lookout towers at the Fisherman's Bastion. Visit St. Matthias Church, first erected in 1247, the Hapsburg Citadel, Heroes Square, St. Stephen's Cathedral and the Hungarian National Museum, where you'll see the Crown of St. Stephen.

- Dinner reservations this evening at Gundel Restaurant.

DAY 3: BUDAPEST. This morning at 9.00 AM, meet with your driver and English-speaking guide for a full day excursion. You will set out to the Danube Bend region and visit Szentendre, an ancient city populated with refugee Serbs who sailed up the Danube in the 17th and 18th centuries to escape the Osman occupations. The town has a unique vertical structure and a Mediterranean flair. Since the beginning of the 20th century it has been an artists' colony and many art galleries, museums and boutiques add a colorful atmosphere to the town. Places of interest include the Serbian-orthodox church museum, the open-air village museum and the Margit Kovacs Museum (ceramics). You will also visit Visegrad, a fortified medieval citadel located on the Danube, with marvelous views of the river bend from the hilltop. In Renaissance times this massive fortress was a royal summer residence. Places of interest include Solomon Tow, excavations and restored parts of the Royal Residence and entrance. Nearby Esztergom was the first royal seat in the 11th century and is also the residence of archbishops of Hungary. Here you'll find the largest church in the country, the Cathedral, which dominates the town. Places of interest include the restored Royal Palace, the Christian Museum (the most important ecclesiastic art collection in the country), the Cathedral and its crypt (Cardinal Mindszenty's tomb) and the treasury. Return to Budapest and your hotel by 5.00 PM.

- Dinner reservations this evening at Remiz Café Brasserie.

DAY 4: BUDAPEST/VIENNA. Make your way to the Budapest rail station in time for your train to Vienna. First class tickets and reserved seats are included. Depart from the Keleti station at for arrival at the Vienna Westbahnhof station. Upon arrival in Vienna, you are met and privately transferred to your hotel, **The Sacher**. The name Sacher has been made world-famous by the matchless good taste of the cake, the original Sacher-Torte that bears its name, and for the elegant luxury and unsurpassed charm of the hotel. This five star luxury hotel is located in the heart of Vienna's downtown, directly adjacent to the Vienna State Opera and the Kärntnerstraße, at the beginning of the pedestrian mall. Three nights are reserved in a deluxe junior suite with a king bed and a sitting area on the 6th or 7th floor with roof tops view.

- Dinner reservation at Korso Restaurant.

DAY 5: VIENNA. This morning at 9.00 AM, you are met at your hotel for a half day sightseeing of the city with your own driver and English-speaking guide, including a visit of Schönbrunn Palace, the summer residence of the Hapsburgs including Maria Theresa, her daughter Marie Antoinette, and Napoleon's short-lived son, the Duke of Reichstadt. It was here that Mozart made his debut at the age of six. Entrance fees included. Afternoon at leisure. This evening you have confirmed tickets for a gala performance of the Spanish Riding School at Hofburg Palace. Exact details and tickets will be with the concierge of the Sacher on arrival.

DAY 6: VIENNA. A full day at leisure to explore on your own. Most of the sights are in the Ring area: Hofburg Palace with the Imperial Apartments, where the Emperors of Austria lived; the Imperial Treasury (Schatzkammer), with the crown jewels of the House of Hapsburg; The Spanish Riding School with the famed Lippizaner horses; the Capuchins' Crypt (Kaisergruft), where 12 emperors and 16 empresses are buried; St. Stephen's Cathedral; the Opera; and the house where Mozart lived. Stroll the elegant walking streets lined with sophisticated shops and drop in to a coffeehouse for some famous Viennese coffee accompanied by a rich, cream-filled pastry! The Museum of Fine Arts (Kunsthistorisches Museum) has an excellent collection of pictures assembled by the Hapsburgs.

- Dinner reservation at the Imperial Hotel Restaurant.

DAY 7: VIENNA/KRAKOW. Make your way to the Vienna Suedbahnhof rail station in time for your early train to Krakow. First class tickets and reserved seats are included. Upon arrival at the Osoboway station, you will be met and taken to your hotel, the **Sheraton Krakow** where we have reserved a corner junior suite with a king bed, a sitting area, with views of Wawel Castle and the river for your three night stay. Located near Wawel Castle on the bank of Wisla River, Sheraton Krakow Hotel is Krakow's first five-star international hotel. Inside you will discover a spectacular atrium with a glass roof and a traditional feel. The hotel features an all-day dining restaurant, a lobby bar & café, plus the lively bar, eatery and terrace, "Some Place Else", where you will check in and drop your luggage. At 2.00 PM, you will be met at your hotel and depart on a half day tour to the Wieliczka Salt Mines.

- Dinner reservations at Pod Aniolami tonight.

DAY 8: KRAKOW. This morning at 9.00 AM, you are met at your hotel and taken on a half-day walking tour with an English-speaking guide including entrances to Wawel Castle and St. Mary's Church. To find the soul of Poland, you must seek it in Krakow – wrote the author and critic, Wilhelm Feldman, at the beginning of this century. Poland's soul is chiseled into almost every stone of its former capital and this atmosphere can be felt in each of the city's most visited sites. Visit the 11th century Wawel Castle, which houses a fabulous collection of Arras tapestries, portraits and other precious objects. The heart of the city is Rynek Glowny (a great plaza), which is dominated by The Sukiennice (Cloth Hall), Europe's largest medieval marketplace. Other sites include the Wierzynek Restaurant, the oldest continuously operating restaurant in Europe, the Florian Gate, and much more.

- Dinner reservations this evening at Copernicus.

DAY 9: KRAKOW. This morning at 9.00 AM, depart on a half-day excursion with private car, driver and English speaking guide to the former concentration camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

- Dinner reservation this evening at Tetmajerowska.

DAY 10: KRAKOW/PRAGUE. Depart your hotel with your private driver to the airport in order to arrive for your flight to Prague. Upon arrival in Prague, you are met and privately transferred to the **Four Seasons Hotel**, where 3 nights are included in a premium king bedded room with a sitting area and a lovely view of Charles Bridge, the Vltava River and Prague Castle.

- Dinner reservations at V. Zatisi Restaurant.

DAY 11: PRAGUE. This morning at 9.00 AM, you are met by a private car and English-speaking guide and taken on a half day sightseeing of the city's highlights. Prague is composed of five historical districts: The New Town (Vaclavske namesti), with Wenceslas Square, the National Museum and the Anton Dvorak Museum. In the Old Town (Stare Mesto), you will see the Old Town Square, Celetna Street with its baroque townhouses, the Jewish Quarter and Charles Bridge (Karluv most), one of the oldest and most beautiful bridges in Europe. In the Lesser Town (Mala Strana), you can admire the Lesser Town Square with its magnificent baroque church of St. Nicholas, Wallenstein Palace, today the Ministry of Culture and Neruda Street, a street with baroque houses leading to Prague Castle (Hradcany), the seat of government. In the Castle district, you'll also find St. Vitus Cathedral and the National Gallery (Narodni galerie). Finally, Vysehrad is a fortress town, set up high on a cliff, opposite Prague Castle. **NOTE: This tour will include entrance fees to Prague Castle and a short walking tour of the Jewish Quarter with entrance fee to the Old New Synagogue.**

- Dinner reservations this evening at Allegro Restaurant at the Four Seasons.

DAY 12: NELAHOZEVES. This morning at 9.00 AM, depart on a half-day excursion by private car with an English-speaking guide to the 16th century castle of **Nelahozeves**, which represents the pinnacle of Renaissance Bohemia architecture. Included are important works of Cranach, Bruegel the Elder, Velasquez, Rubens, as well as one of the largest groups of Spanish portraits outside Spain. A significant part of the exhibition offers a major collection of furniture, ceramics, porcelain, glass, metalwork and rare books. Additional highlights include musical instruments and manuscripts of Beethoven, Mozart and others. You will also visit the museum - birthplace and monument of the legendary Czech composer, Antonín Dvorak. (Entrance fee included)
- Dinner reservations this evening at Flambee Restaurant.

DAY 13: DEPART. This morning you are privately transferred to the Prague airport in time for your flight.

Note: This is a sample itinerary based on 2 guests.

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