



CENTRAL EUROPEAN SOJOURN: VIENNA, PRAGUE & CZECH REPUBLIC

September 14-24, 2012 11 Days

Hosted by Pat Deckas Becerra

This trip of a lifetime will allow you to “travel in time” to a medieval fairytale castle, an incredibly charming Renaissance town, gothic churches, a baroque palace, a 19th century spa town and even an 18th century fortress town that was converted into a concentration camp.

The tour will begin in the cosmopolitan city of Vienna, the “Most Livable City in the World” (2009, 2010 & 2011), and end in Prague, “The City of One Hundred Spires”. You’ll experience magnificent sights, tastes and sounds as well as take in Prague’s fabulous culture, architecture and history. We’ll travel in a private motor coach to truly unique places with local guides who will enlighten us with the intriguing history of the places we’ll see.

You’ll also have the special opportunity to meet several Czechs who will join us for dinner in Prague one evening. Czechs say

“Every Czech is a musician” so I highly recommend attending at least one performance in Prague; I’ll send you specific options as we get closer to departure.

I have been charmed by many captivating areas and delightful people in Central Europe, and I’d love to show you some of these cherished places. After I retired from teaching French, I lived in Prague for three stimulating years from 2006 to 2009 to teach English at a university there. I will gladly share what I have learned about their everyday culture. Before I retired I had already made nearly thirty trips to Western Europe, including many summers in France, and I’ve been lucky enough to have lived in Paris, Geneva, and Belgium. In the fall 2011, I led a group to France and now I hope you’ll join our small group of 15-20 people next fall to my other beloved area of the world.

—Pat Deckas Becerra



DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

FRI 14 SEP Depart U.S.

Depart Minneapolis/St. Paul on the transatlantic, overnight flight to Paris via Delta Airlines. (Meals in-flight)

SAT 15 SEP Arrive Vienna

Connect in Paris this morning with the continuing flight to Vienna. Welcome to Austria! Upon arrival, meet a local guide and motorcoach for a panoramic overview tour of Austria’s capital city, the seat of the Habsburg Empire for five centuries. Drive past the beautiful Danube River, graceful parks and exquisite buildings: the Opera House, the elegant theaters, and Hofburg Palace, which was the winter palace of the Habsburg emperors. Store your luggage at the hotel and stroll through the neighborhood until the rooms are available at mid-afternoon. After check-in and time to rest and refresh, gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel. Trend Hotel Ananas (Meals in-flight, D) www.austria-trend.at/hotel-ananas/en

SUN 16 SEP Vienna

Embark on a full day, locally guided walking tour of the city using public transportation as needed (own expense). Your tour features the world within the Ringstrasse, the very heart of the Viennese flourishing of culture and imperialism. Tour St. Stephan’s Cathedral in the heart of the city and walk along the Kartner Strasse pedestrian street. Visit the rich and varied collection at the Kunsthistorisches Museum. Trend Hotel Ananas (B)

MON 17 SEP Vienna/Český Krumlov

This morning visit Schönbrunn Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site built in the 17th century to rival Versailles. The baroque symmetry of the summer palace is enhanced by its elaborate gardens. After lunch transfer by private coach to Český Krumlov in the Czech Republic. Český Krumlov, another UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a Renaissance jewel of a town with a unique atmosphere. That has quietly maintained its picturesque Renaissance soul since its Golden Age in the 16th century. The well preserved Old Town is dominated by its castle looming over the meandering Vltava River. Upon arrival embark on a two-hour locally guided walking tour through the narrow cobblestone streets. Check in at your hotel for dinner and overnight. Dvorak Hotel (B, D) www.hoteldvorak.com

TUE 18 SEP Český Krumlov/Prague

This morning visit the castle, then depart northward to the historic town of Kutna Hora – another UNESCO World Heritage Site. The once rich silver mining town of Kutna Hora supplied most of Europe’s coins for centuries, and the city rivaled Prague in splendor; however it drifted into slumber after their mines were virtually empty by 1700. Visit the striking Sedlec Ossuary. When nobility purchased the Sedlec Monastery in 1870, a local woodcarver created its extraordinary decorations with bones from centuries of skeletons piled in the crypt. Continue to the intriguing city, “Golden” Prague, the 14th century capital of the Holy Roman Empire under Charles IV. The city rests on the banks of the Vltava River, the main artery of the Bohemian waterways. Check in at your hotel for dinner and overnight. Anel’s Hotel (B, D) www.anelshotel.com

WED 19 SEP Prague

After breakfast, set off on a tour of Prague, including a walking tour of Hradcany—the Prague Castle and its massive complex including palaces, churches, museums and St. Vitus Cathedral. Walk down the Golden Lane past Franz Kafka’s house; continue down Naruda Street with its many shops and restaurants. Have lunch on your own in the area, then stroll across the lovely pedestrian-only Charles Bridge, lined with statues and ornate lamp posts to visit the Old Town and see the famous 15th century astronomical clock at the Old Town Hall. Perhaps climb the tower for a magnificent view of the city. The rest of the day is for exploring Prague on your own, which may include jewelry shopping for garnets or moldavite (a uniquely Czech stone from a green meteorite). Anel’s Hotel (B)

THU 20 SEP Prague

Today tour the compelling remains of the Jewish ghetto featuring museums, synagogues, and the Jewish cemetery in the Josefov district of Prague. Have lunch on your own, perhaps in the fabulously beautiful Municipal House, then visit the compact museum that houses works of the famed Father of Art Nouveau artist, Alfons Mucha. The rest of the day is free for individual pursuits; perhaps attend one of the many musical performance opportunities, such as an opera, a concert, or even a blacklight theater, a uniquely Czech entertainment genre. Anel’s Hotel (B)

FRI 21 SEP Prague

Enjoy a morning at leisure. We will take an unforgettable day trip to Terezin, or Theresienstadt in German. This was the Nazis’ model “Jewish town” – a unique concentration camp because this 1780 fortress town made it easy for the Nazis to control the 60,000 Jewish prisoners they housed here after they forced out the original 7,000 inhabitants. We’ll make a short stop en route to Lidice to view the memorial to the town that was totally erased in 1942 by the Nazis in reprisal for the assassination of the high ranking Nazi, Reinhard Heydrich. Return to Prague via Wenceslas Square for an elegant dinner at Restaurant Nebozizek with its great view of Prague...we get there by taking a funicular! Anel’s Hotel (B, D)

SAT 22 SEP Prague

Today’s full-day excursion is to the pretty spa town of Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad). Although still a popular spa destination with its 13th century “healing” hot springs, the city reached its pinnacle as a resort from the mid-19th century until WWI. It was the place to see and be seen, a resort for relaxation and culture. Upon arrival meet a local guide for a three-hour tour of the city including a stop at the Moser Glass Factory. Perhaps you’ll also want to enjoy a glass of Becherovka, their famous herbal liqueur. Return to Prague. Anel’s Hotel (B)

SUN 23 SEP Prague

This morning travel to Karlstein to visit the Bohemian royal palace, which was founded in 1348 by King Charles IV primarily as a place to keep the imperial crown jewels and Holy Relics. The spectacular view of the castle beckons as you walk up the charming street. Tour the majestic castle located on a rocky hill overlooking the Berounka River valley. Return to Prague for your last stroll in this “City of a Hundred Spires.” This evening travel back in time for a festive farewell dinner at U Pavouka Medieval Tavern. Anel’s Hotel (B, D)

MON 24 SEP Return to U.S.

Transfer with assistance to the Prague airport for flight check-in and the return flights home. Arrive back in the U.S. this same day, enriched by your European explorations.

Code: **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**
Itinerary subject to change.

TOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of \$400 per person are requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. A second payment of \$1000 is due May 11, 2012. Final payment is due July 11, 2012. For credit card payment Group Travel Directors accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance of departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to May 10, 2012 - \$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; May 11 - August 30, 2012 - Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; August 31, 2012 or after - No refund.

CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS: The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than May 12, 2012. A minimum fee of \$175 per person will apply for changes to group flights in addition to a possible airfare increase.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a \$50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- AIRFARE:** Round-trip economy class airfare from Minneapolis/St. Paul via Delta Airlines or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.
- ACCOMMODATION:** Nine nights accommodation in superior tourist and first class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily and five dinners as outlined in the itinerary.
- GROUND TRANSPORT:** Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach.
- SIGHTSEEING:** Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included.
- PORTERAGE:** Luggage handling of one piece per person.
- EXPERT GUIDES:** Experienced English-speaking local guides per the itinerary.
- GRATUITIES:** Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$70 per person has been included).
- TAXES:** Airport/foreign departure taxes and fuel surcharges (currently \$570 per person).
- ALL THE INFO YOU NEED:** Comprehensive documentation including handy high visibility bag tags, name tags, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

PRE-EXISTING medical conditions and other circumstances are covered when insurance is purchased at the time of reservation / deposit. Contact Travel Insured for more info. 800-243-3174

COST SUMMARY

***\$3599**

Group Flights From Minneapolis/St. Paul
Tour Gratuities (\$70)..... Included
Airport Taxes (\$570)..... Included
*Costs per person based on double occupancy in USD

Optional Individual Supplement

Single Room*..... \$570
*In addition to base tour cost
Very limited availability on request basis.
GTD can assist in finding roommates;
however, this cannot be guaranteed

Costs: The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Minneapolis/St. Paul (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of November 2011, a minimum of 15 travelers, and subject to confirmation. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed price and/or itinerary, they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Single room supplements may have limited availability and are on a request basis only.

Items Not Included

- Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
- Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
- Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption is not included and highly recommended. Please refer to the Travel Insurance section.
- Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.
- No entry visa is required for U.S. citizens; non-U.S. citizens may require an entry visa.

RESERVATION APPLICATION • APPLY ONLINE AT: WWW.GTD.ORG G#120903 • OR CLIP AND MAIL

Deckas Becerra: Central Europe • September 14-24, 2012 • (G#120903) • Group Travel Directors • 2000 W 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

(Name as it appears on passport)

1. _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

2. _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

Address (no P.O. boxes) _____ Tel. (Day) _____ (Eve.) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Roommate _____ I will pay the supplement for a single room.

Advise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)

- I/We will take the group flights from Mpls/St. Paul.
- I/We will need assistance with flight arrangements from _____ airport to join the group.
- I/We will make all of my own flight arrangements.
Please contact GTD for land- only rates.

DEPOSIT/TRAVEL INSURANCE (please check one)

Please reserve _____ space(s) for me/us; we choose the following deposit option:

\$ _____ \$ 624 per person **inclusive of travel insurance.**

\$ _____ \$400 per person **without travel insurance.**

I/We decline now, but understand it can be purchased later without the pre- existing waiver.

Form of Payment

- Check
- Charge my deposit(s) to
Credit Card # _____
Exp _____
Security Code _____
Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Please make checks payable to Group Travel Directors G#120903

I/We have read and understand the conditions of this brochure. Parent or guardian signature is required for travelers under age 18.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____



GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is included as an option with the initial tour deposit and is highly recommended. GTD offers a competitive policy from an independent company. By purchasing insurance at the time the tour deposit is made, you can be covered for events that may cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip, e.g., pre-existing medical conditions (certain restrictions apply). If you decline travel insurance at the time of reservation, you may purchase it within 14 days with the pre-existing conditions waiver or you may purchase it later without the pre-existing conditions waiver. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: 800-243-3174.

GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE INCLUSIONS

Trip Cancellation.....	up to Tour Cost*
Trip Interruption.....	up to 150% of Tour Cost**
Travel Delay.....	\$750
Missed Connection.....	\$300
Baggage.....	\$1,000
Baggage Delay.....	\$200
Medical Expense.....	\$50,000
Evacuation/Repatriation.....	\$500,000
Accidental Death.....	\$10,000
Political Emergency Evacuation.....	\$100,000
ID Theft Resolution Services.....	included
Assistance Service.....	included

* a maximum of \$4000 per person
 ** a maximum of \$6000 per person

Cost of this optional GTD Travel Insurance is \$224 per person. Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered. NOTE: Residents of Indiana, New Hampshire, and Washington will receive a state-specific Description of Coverage, which can also be requested by calling 866-684-0218.

CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user's fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also covers the group leader(s) and their respective organizations.

NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS:

Please be assured that GTD continually monitors industry events, such as airline strikes and bankruptcies, etc. If any such events affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed there was not a U.S. State Department Travel Warning in effect for this destination; please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw_1764.html

For more information, contact:

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