



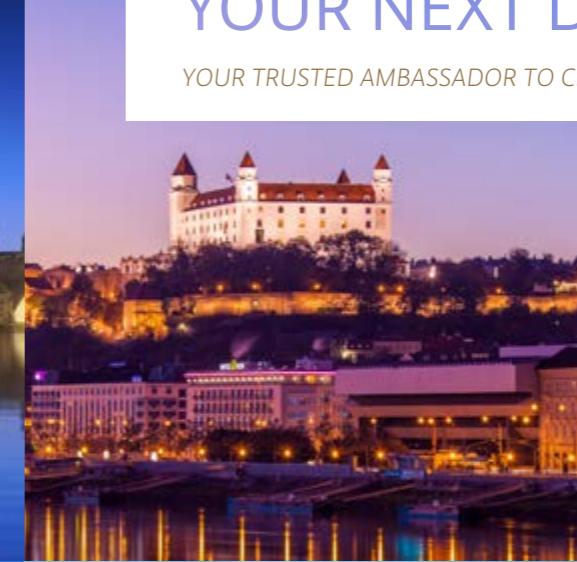
KOMPAS

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KOMPAS
YOUR NEXT DESTINATION

YOUR TRUSTED AMBASSADOR TO CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE



POLAND
CZECH REPUBLIC
SLOVAKIA
AUSTRIA
HUNGARY
ITALY

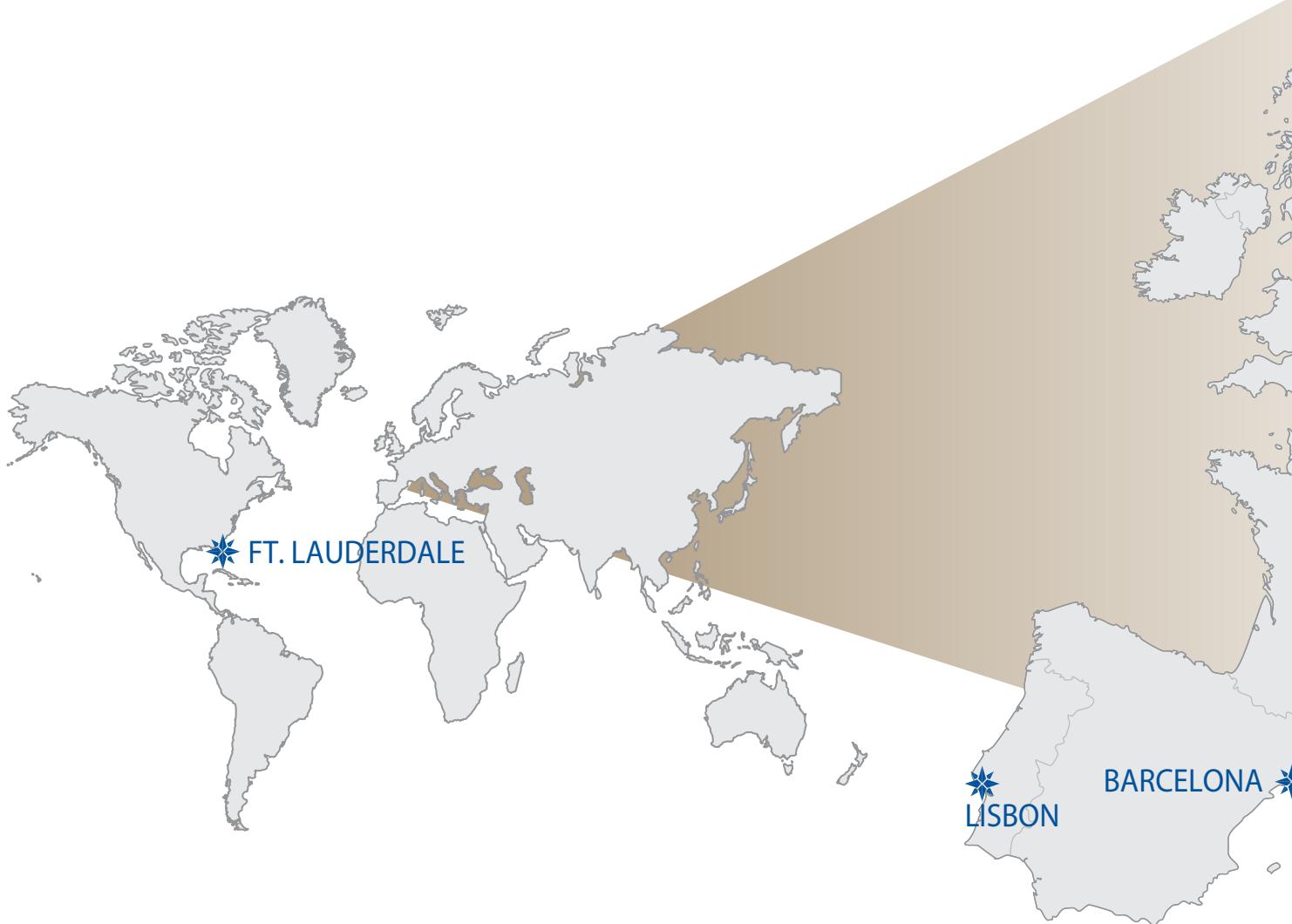


KOMPAS

KOMPAS NETWORK

Kompas is a well-established DMC offering its services since 1951. Our network in Central and Eastern Europe is committed to quality and excellence. We have built up a strong reputation to manage and execute several important and high-profile events, meetings, conferences and incentives. Our friendly highly qualified support staff ensure the success of your business event.

Our main activities are focused on business travellers, team building programs, incentives and the organisation of congresses and other events at some of Central and Eastern Europe's most attractive sites.



We service our clients with our own professional staff and local offices in all capital cities in Central and Eastern Europe, covering Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary and Italy, which we present in this catalogue. Our network of offices are also across Western & Northern Europe, and the Balkans too.



With more than 70 years of experience and highest customer satisfaction scores in the industry, Kompas business and incentive trips are a smart choice for you. Our aim is to organise programs that are creative, original and memorable. All of our suppliers are carefully selected and our staff is with you throughout the program from presentation of your chosen destination preparing and combining the best routes for easy travelling and throughout the stay of your clients.

CONNECTIVITY

Poland

Access to Poland is easy and relatively inexpensive. Poland's main airport is Warsaw Chopin Airport (WAW) and as it's in the middle of the country – it's easily accessible in 2-3 hours by Pendolino train from all the main cities. Highways in Poland are public roads designed to carry large amounts of traffic and even in big cities traffic is not heavy. Intercity & Pendolino train routes in Poland is much faster than by car or coach.

Czech Republic

The largest and major international airport is in the capital, Prague (Vaclav Havel Airport). The airport is of a high standard and has three terminals. Other international airports are in Brno, Ostrava, Karlovy Vary and Pardubice. The country has one of the densest railway networks in Europe and a sophisticated system of bus transportation. Cesky Drahý is the largest railway carrier with an extensive network and excellent quality of service. Trains and buses are reliable. A comprehensive online timetable for trains and buses is available. Prague is centrally located and is few hours away by road from Vienna (3h34m), Budapest (5h4m), Bratislava (3h13m) and Krakow (5h24m).

Slovakia

Getting to Slovakia is much simpler now with air connections to Bratislava, Košice, and Poprad with Prague, Vienna and Warsaw within the region and direct international connectivity to Dubai. There are express trains running most frequently to Bratislava from Prague and Budapest, followed by Warsaw, Krakow and Vienna. Slovakia is best accessed by road from Vienna (1 hour to Bratislava) and Prague (3h30m).

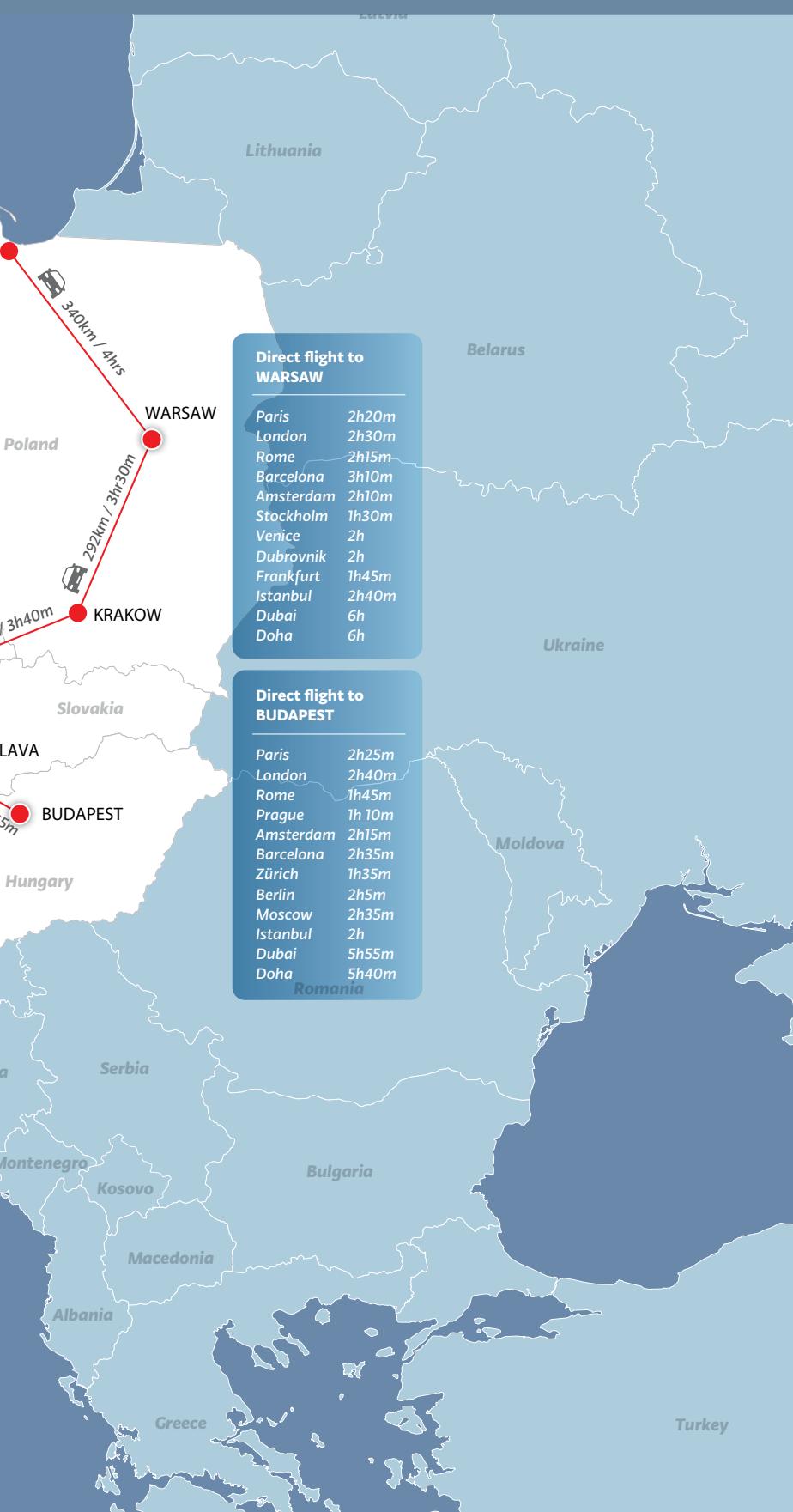
Austria

Travelling to Austria by air couldn't be easier. Austria's four major airports in Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Graz ensure the country is well connected both nationally and internationally. Vienna International is an incredibly busy airport and is also seeing an increased demand for flights to destinations in Asia and the Middle East and has in recent years enjoyed a healthy expansion in the number of low-cost carriers.



The beauty of Central and Eastern Europe is its fantastic connectivity and short distances between countries.

The capital cities, business and tourist hubs of this region are connected to international hubs of Asia, Middle East, Americas and Europe by air, by road and by rail. Combined with ONE type of visa (Schengen) which gives access to these Central and Eastern Europe countries, the region becomes a phenomenal option for absolutely any kind of traveller with any sort of interest. Nowhere else in the world can you cover major historical cities, the quaint sleepy countryside, numerous UNESCO sites, numerous activities and taste multiple cuisines in a matter of a few days. Our guideline is to make sure that the client enjoys the trip from destination to destination. Therefore, we include stops on the way, usually every 2-4 hours at famous sights where people can explore the countryside and get to know the region even more.



Austria has a dense road system inherited from its centuries as the hub of a vast continental empire. The country serves as an important link between western, northern, and central Europe and Italy, eastern Europe, and the Balkans.

Journeying to and through Austria by rail is easier than ever before. What better way to travel than through stunning alpine scenery, lush valleys, historic towns and picturesque villages on comfortable trains? The Austrian rail network is controlled by Austrian Federal Railways (Österreichische Bundesbahnen; ÖBB).

Hungary

Budapest is easily accessible by air in 2-3 hours from most major cities of Europe, 5-6 hours from the Middle East and about 9 hours from the East Coast of the American continent. Hungary's busiest airport is the Ferenc Liszt International Airport. Other airports where international flights arrive are Debrecen and Sármellék, near Lake Balaton, used by charter flights.

The dense European rail network allows easy access to Budapest. Two most popular arrivals are from Prague and Vienna. Budapest has three major railway stations, all used for international arrivals.

Italy

Italy's main international airports are in Rome - Rome–Fiumicino International Airport "Leonardo da Vinci" and Milan – Milan Malpensa Airport. International flights also arrive in numerous other airports with the country having links with most European countries and the rest of the world. Numerous airports in almost all regions of the country make it easy to travel between not only major cities and tourist hubs but also to smaller islands. Though Italy is well connected to the rest of Europe by rail and road, from Central and Eastern Europe region, Vienna is the only practical option taking almost 12 hours by rail or road to Rome or Venice.

POLAND

Poland – situated in “The Heart of Europe”, is a country of rich history and cultural heritage, and beautiful nature, with Europe's oldest primeval forest and an exciting modern atmosphere. Poland has a surface area of 312 679 km², which is more than Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia combined, so the only way to write about such a huge country is to skip the descriptions of many important places and only mention cities that are as old as Prague or as big as Vienna. To mention only famous European mountain ranges and miss again whole areas, as big as Hungary, with picturesque villages and the countryside full of lakes, rivers and natural beauty.



General statistics & Helpful Information

Capital City: Warsaw

Population: 38 million

Religion: more than three quarters of the population are Catholic

Official Language: Polish

Time Zone: UTC+1, both summer and winter times are used

Currency: Zloty (PLN, zł)

Dialling code: +48

Internet domain: .pl

Visa: No visa required for EU citizens. Schengen visa for Non-EU



WHY POLAND?

- ✓ Poland is the place to embrace the Great Outdoors. We can create a team building in a nature almost everywhere, in any place you can imagine. 130 meters underground? No problem. 1900 meters above the sea level, on the top of the Mountain?
- ✓ All the Old Towns in the main cities are on the UNESCO Heritage list
- ✓ Most of the big international hotel chains are present in Poland. Main Exhibition & congress Places are located in the city centres of the main cities.
- ✓ Poland has everything - sea, mountains, lakes, plains, primeval forests and large cities and with increasingly modern transport it is easy to travel between destinations
- ✓ Traditional warm Polish hospitality

TIPS

The locals speak foreign languages including English, German and Russian at basic level and are slowly improving. The locals however, will definitely appreciate if a visitor makes an effort to speak in the local language. Sometimes a greeting or a courtesy phrase is enough:

Cześć = Hello

Dobry wieczór = Good Evening

Jak się masz? = How are you?

Proszę = Please

Dziękuję Ci = Thank you

Tak = Yes

Nie = No

WARSAW - THE CAPITAL

There are over 100 events every month in Warsaw including Night Markets, Breakfast Markets, Vegan Markets, concerts & international fairs. Warsaw was the seat of the Polish monarchy and the home of the composer, Fryderyk Chopin. Warsaw became the backdrop of a World War II tragedy and the triumphant fall of communism. In 1980 the Old Town in Warsaw found its place on the **Unesco List of World Heritage Sites**.

During the tourist season, it becomes a stage for open air concerts, drama performances and art galleries. Romantic backstreets sloping down to the river and stylish cafés with soothing background music are perfect places for a break from sightseeing. City tours include all the main monuments and sights of Warsaw: Old Town and New Town - the castle square, King Sigismund's Column, St. John Cathedral, the Old Town market square and the Barbican; Royal Route – aristocratic residences and famous statues, the University of Warsaw and historic churches. **Royal Castle** (2hrs); Historic sights - the Ghetto memorial, the Monument of the Warsaw Uprising, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Grand Theatre, Chopin's monument, Pilsudski square, **Łazienki park** and the Belvedere Palace. Łazienki park is one of the most beautiful parts of Warsaw and a favorite place for walks. This romantic, landscaped park includes the Palace on the Water, together with various other palaces, pavilions, an amphitheatre and two orangeries.; **Wilanów Palace** (2.5 hrs) 17th century a palace garden complex (443 hectares) which served as a royal residence (by King Jan III Sobieski) and later as aristocratic residence for nearly 300 years. During winter in Wilanów gardens you will find beautiful light installations and mapping on the palace.



Don't miss **Free open-air concerts** that are held at the foot of the **Fryderyk Chopin** monument every Sunday from May until September. The concerts welcome outstanding pianists from all over the world and are free of charge. All you need to do is sit in the park and take in the wonderful music. You can also visit the home of Fryderyk Chopin in **Żelazowa Wola** (3.5 hours tour from Warsaw) This is a small village on the Utrata river, picturesquely located among the meadows around 50 km west of Warsaw. It was here that in 1810, Fryderyk Chopin - the world-famous composer - was born.

POLIN Museum, which is a history of Polish Jews and winner of the 2017 European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards and the best European museum of 2016, awarded by EMYA. It is located in a very symbolic place, next to the Ghetto Heroes Monument in the district of the former ghetto. The amazing reconstruction



of the wooden Gwoździec Synagogue is a must see.

Most popular day excursions from Warsaw are **Nieborów Palace & Arkadia Park**.

KRAKOW - PEARL OF EUROPE

Kraków Market Square is the largest in Europe and is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is filled with cafes, shops and restaurants, and a great place to people-watch, check out the local architecture and just soak in the atmosphere. Kraków is one of the oldest human settlements in Poland since 20,000 BC. The tallest structures on Kraków skyline are not skyscrapers but the spires of old churches. Historical buildings, museums and churches also flank the Main Market Square. The main landmarks of the square are the St. Mary's Basilica, the Sukiennice (Cloth Hall), the St. Adalbert's Church, Town Hall Tower.

Wawel Cathedral is a Roman Catholic church located on Wawel Hill. More than 900 years old, it is the Polish national sanctuary and traditionally has served as a coronation site of the monarchs. Karol Wojtyła, who in 1978 became Pope John Paul II, was ordained to the priesthood here in 1946. The current, Gothic cathedral, is the third edifice on this site: the first was constructed in the 11th century. Kazimierz a **historical Jewish district** of Kraków, from the 14th century until the Second World War. The revival of the district followed the success of Schindler's List, filmed in 1993 by Steven Spielberg. **Schindler's Factory** museum provides visitors with an opportunity to learn more about the Jewish history of Kraków under the occupation. Nearby you might also like to visit Museum of Contemporary Art in Kraków (Mocak). If you are in Krakow don't miss famous food markets – the most famous one is **ART & FOOD BAZAR** on Kleparz – once a month you can find various European, but also Asian and African food corners. **Ener-gylania** is greatest amusement park in Poland and Eastern Europe. Perfect for a day tour from Krakow for all the family and friends.



Auschwitz Birkenau -The Auschwitz concentration camp complex was the largest of its kind established by the German regime. The camps were located approximately 37 miles west of Kraków (1:30h from Krakow). It was placed on the world heritage list as vivid testimony to the murderous nature of the anti-Semitic and racist Nazi policy that brought about the annihilation of more than 1.2 million people in the crematoria, 90% of whom were Jews. Note: Poland has the highest number of people honoured by the Righteous among the Nations. Out of the 11 million killed in concentration camps, 6 million were Polish citizens.

Wieliczka Salt Mine - Located only 30mins from Krakow, Wieliczka has been mined since the 13th century, this deposit of rock salt is still actively worked. With over nine levels and 300 kilometers of galleries with famous works of art, altars, and statues sculpted in salt, it constitutes a fascinating pilgrimage into the past of a major industrial undertaking. Highlights include a grand chapel where everything – from altars to chandeliers – is carved entirely by hand from salt blocks. The

mine is also known for its medical properties, thanks to the preservative nature of the air. There's even an underground sanatorium where people suffering from chronic allergy diseases can book, for an overnight stay, and get treated. The oldest part of the mine is opened to the public as a museum.

The route in the mine leads you through galleries, chambers and chapels on three levels. All altarpieces, figures and monuments are carved in salt. The highlight is the richly ornamented Chapel of St. Kinga. There is a salt spa, it's possible to organise underground Gala, dinners, sightseeing, pilgrimage tour, a mass and Adventure Teambuilding Tour.



Ojców National Park - Located only 23 km from Kraków (0:30h). It is a land full of caves, castles and unusual cliffs and rock formations. Renaissance Castle in Pieskowa Skala & the largest in the park King's Cave are the must see in case of nice weather. Perfect for a day tour with team building activities in nature.



NORTHERN POLAND - GDANSK & BALTIC SEA

Discover your new destination in Poland – Magical Gdansk – by the Baltic Sea, near Polish dunes and divided by Motława river and smaller canals. Gdansk is part of the Three-city, urban area, made up of the towns of Gdansk (Old Town), Gdynia (Port-Harbour), and Sopot (most famous Beach Resort). Buildings in the old town include St. Catherine's church, sections of which date back to the 14th century. Its interior is in the gothic style. The entrance hall has a bronze bas-relief of the 17th-century Gdansk astronomer Hevelius. The city of Fahrenheit, Schopenhauer and Lech Wałęsa & Solidarity movement. While you are in Gdansk you cannot skip Długi Targ square with golden house, Artus Court – the burgher's meeting place, St. Mary's Church (the largest gothic church in the world), St Catherine Church (with carillon), Neptune Fountain, Golden and Green Gate, The Old Crane on the river Motława.



The most original event is the St. Dominic Fair, a tradition which dates back to medieval times, that nowadays combines trading traditions with cultural events. Important and popular tours from Gdansk are: Castle of Teutonic Knights in Malbork (half day) (Unesco) (especially for Game of Thrones fans, just outside the city of Gdansk, with swords and magic light and music evening shows); Open-air museum in Wdzydze Kiszewskie (full day) its collection of some 30 traditional wooden buildings from 17th-19th centuries; Frombork – a unique cathedral-cum-castle complex (full day); Stutthof – former Nazi concentration camp (half day); Excursion to 200 metres wide Hel Peninsula (half day) capital of Polish kite and windsurfing famous in all Europe, dunes (full day) – did you know there are UNESCO dunes in Poland at the Słowiński Biosphere Reserve? Kurpie folk villages & Bory Tucholskie; Old Town in Toruń (UNESCO) between Warsaw and Gdansk, can be made on the way without overnight, on the way – 2 hours city tour, Cod Fishing on a Baltic Sea – Full day tour from Gdansk (smaller fishing boats ca.15 pax each). Amazing experience for fish lovers – cod fish lunch from what participants catch is included. There is always a good day for cod fishing in the Baltic Sea. Boat trip in the bay of Gdansk. Admire the most magnificent views of the Tri-City from the deck of a boat: the picturesque panorama of old Gdansk, Hel peninsula, the beaches of Sopot and Gdynia harbour. Stop at Westerplatte to visit the monument commemorating the defenders of the coast on the first days of World War II. On board local fish specialties will be served and Polish musicians will entertain the group.

ZAKOPANE & POLISH MOUNTAINS

Possible also as a day tour from Kraków, Zakopane is a real paradise offering Polish folk, artistic images, photogenic scenes, unique wooden home architecture and rewarding shopping time. See the mountaineer's old cottages, take a walk through Krupówki street. One of the best-known promenades in Poland with shops, restaurants, coffee shops, stalls offering souvenirs and delicious ewe's-milk cheese "oscypki". Also, you will see the oldest street in the city with many masterpieces of local architecture, Koscieliska str. – the original centre of Zakopane. Enjoy superb views from mountain summits by taking a ride with a cable car to Gubałówka summit. A viewing terrace on the top offers a panorama of Zakopane and surrounding villages set against the spectacular backdrop of the Tatras. Visit Chochołów village – the most picturesque village in the Tatra region. An absolutely unique living open air museum – village comprising a large collection of wooden farm houses built in the 18th and 19th century, in the traditional way and Zakopianski style. Take a horse carriage ride through Zakopane. Enjoy the wonderful scenery of the city of Zakopane during a horse carriage ride. Stop for a treat (1 course + 1 drink) with live music from folklore mountaineers' band over an open fire.



Other Mountains you can find in Poland are **Carpathians**, with largest European populations of brown bears, wolves, chamois, and lynxes, and **Bieszczady Mountains** that are part of this massif. Also, Central & Small Pieniny Mountains are part of this range. The most famous peak here is called **Three Crowns**. The most famous gorges of the Pieniny mountains are the **Dunajec River Gorge** in Pieniny National Park and the Homole Ravine. The **Sudetes** with **Karkonosze** – the highest part of the Bohemian Massif.

MASURIA GREAT LAKE DISTRICT

Masuria Lake district is the perfect destination from Warsaw or Gdańsk as one of the most attractive and beautiful tourist areas in Poland. One-fifth of the whole surface area of the region is covered by lakes, which are interlinked by rivers and canals to form an extensive, branching water route system. Known as the "green lungs of Poland", Masuria is Poland's cleanest region, home to a few national parks and to a lot of national reserves, where one can find numerous animal and plant species, including endangered ones. Highlights of the region: Ostrodomsko-Elblaski Channel - this waterway is one of the most fascinating in the world, both in terms of the surrounding scenery and the engineering techniques used in its construction. The excursion can either be a short trip (2-5 hours) or a full-day trip with Olsztyn city tour, Organ concert in Święta Lipka church, Lidzbark Warmiński, Open Air Museum of folk architecture near Olsztynek, Wolf's Lair – Hitler's secret quarter. Great Masurian Lakes District offers a lot of activities in the fresh air. The most popular are connected with water - kayaking, canoeing, regatta, 4x4 Challenge, full day regatta, water sports and team challenges program.



BIAŁOWIESKI NATIONAL PARK

Białowieża National Park & Primeval Forests full day tour from Warsaw (UNESCO). Home of some remarkable animal life, including rare mammals as the wolf, the lynx, as well as some 300 European bison you can see in the wild! The village itself has stunning wooden architecture and beautiful original wooden huts with local food & folklore.

TORUŃ, GRUDZIĄDZ & BYDGOSZCZ – KUJAWY REGION

Toruń, Grudziądz & Bydgoszcz are gothic cities in northern Poland, famous for the Old Town, Market Sq, town halls. In Toruń - St. John Church, city walls and remaining of the Teutonic knight's castle and Copernicus House. Perfect for a weekend break, a day stop, or even day tour from Warsaw or Gdańsk, as it's located just in between those two. Toruń was founded by the Teutonic Order, in the 13th century. The unique spatial layout of Toruń has remained unchanged for 700 years.

Płock - The city is beautifully situated on the high Vistula cliffs with a great panorama and landscapes. This town has a huge history and Płock was even the capital of Poland in XII century.



POZNAN

Poznań is one of the oldest and largest cities in Poland, inhabited by over half a million people and located conveniently halfway between two European capitals - Berlin and Warsaw, less than 3 hours from each. Apart from the Old Market Square with its gorgeous Renaissance city hall, there is the Croissant Museum, Europe's youngest imperial castle, a former brewery from the 19th century, turned into one of the best shopping centres in the world - "Stary" and lastly - a feast of flavours in local restaurants as recommended in the prestigious yellow Gault & Millau Poland culinary guide. Specially for Kompas tourists we prepare baking workshops for typical Poznanian pastries. For views of the Old Town, it's best to go to the Royal Castle which is in the west end of the Old Town. The castle's original construction dates back to 1249 and by the 14th century, it was the largest non-religious building in all of Poland.



WROCŁAW

Wrocław is the largest city in western Poland and the capital of the Lower Silesian province. The Panorama of the Battle of Racławice is a huge 19th-century painting, whose height reaches 15 metres and length 114 metres.

Market Square Founded in the early 13th century, the medieval market square is one of the most vibrant and crowded places in the city. It is one of the largest market squares in Europe, and has not one, but two town halls. The Gothic Old Town Hall is over 60 metres long, which makes it the highest town hall in the country. Restaurant Piwnica Świdnicka located on the square is the **oldest restaurant in Europe**. Ostrów Tumski, the oldest part of the city dates back to the 10th century, from which the rest of it has been developed. It is also the most charming one – once a garden, today a home to a number of historical buildings and monuments of great importance. Moreover, it is surrounded by the Oder river. The cathedral of St John the Baptist is one of the most important and historically valuable monuments of the city. It was built in the medieval times, the 13th century, as Poland's first brick building, but even beforehand there was a church standing there since the 10th century. **The Multimedia Fountain**, comprises 300 nozzles that together create wonderful water multimedia shows with the use of music and color effects. **Centennial Hall**, figures on the **UNESCO World Heritage** List since 2006. Constructed in the 20th century by Max Berg, it is the most important cultural hall in the whole of Poland.

The Wrocław Africarium where you can go through the tunnel watching underwater flora and fauna from Africa is an exceptional sight.

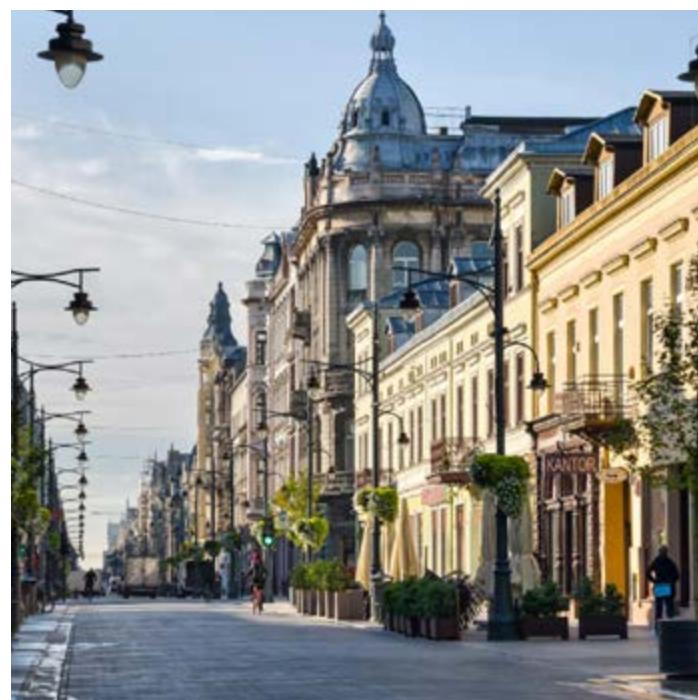


The 17th century Unesco listed **Churches of Peace in Silesia** are the largest timber-framed religious buildings in Europe. Along with **Kliczkow Castle** they are perfect for a day tour from Wrocław.



ŁÓDŹ

Łódź is located only 1,5 hours drive from Warsaw. It has been a great textile centre from XIX century, with Poland's longest street Piotrkowska and 19th century houses. The best old style textile factory area has been renovated and called Manufaktura Shopping Mall. It consists of a square, with many shops and restaurants.

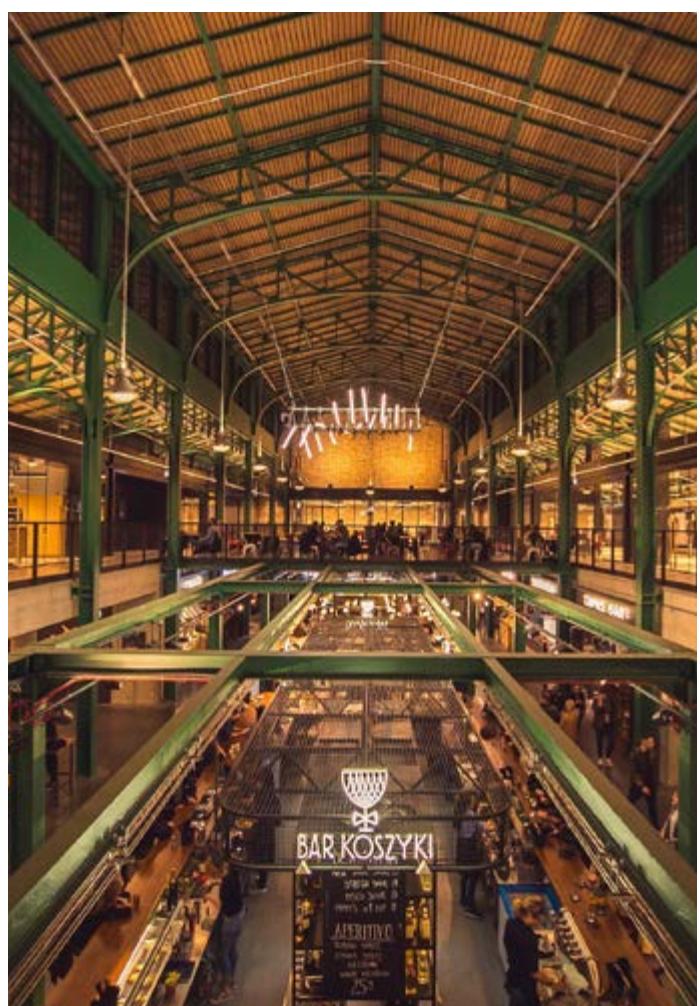


KAZIMIERZ DOLNY, LUBLIN, SANDOMIERZ, ZALIPIE

Kazimierz Dolny is a romantic medieval town boasting some of the most splendid renaissance architecture in Poland. For years artists have flocked to the city to take advantage of its effervescent light and they are largely responsible for its unique ambience. A picturesque market square with its old wooden well is dominated by a 14th century church and several hills where the ruins of the castle stand. Above all, Kazimierz is favored for its relaxed atmosphere, incomparable with any other place in Poland. Possible to take an hour cruise on Vistula river. On the way from Lublin to Krakow, we recommend



to stop in **Sandomierz**, medieval town and **Zalipie**, picturesque hand painted village houses, typical for the local polish folklore. **Lublin** is called "the little Krakow", but it's more than this. It's the oldest and the largest town in the whole eastern Poland. There are many tourist attractions that are worth a visit, but we will name only a few. While visiting Lublin you must see the Lublin Castle, from where you can see the city panorama. The Old Town with its ancient gate and town hall are also great places worth a trip. There is also a Gothic Revival style Trinitarian Tower.



CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Republic is a landlocked country located in Central Europe. It shares borders with neighbouring countries including Germany (in the west), Poland (in the north), Slovakia (in the east) and Austria (in the south). One of the most impressive factors of Czech Republic is that it has extremely well-kept historical sites. Known to be one of the countries having the highest numbers of castles and chateaux this architectural wonder is teeming with magnificent UNESCO Heritage sites belonging to almost every era including Romanesque, Baroque, Renaissance, Gothic and more. Be it Prague , one of the most beautiful historical cities in the world with more than 1000 years of building or the fairytale town of Cesky Krumlov full of medieval character, the richly decorated Renaissance chateau Litomyšl Or the ancient silver mining town of Kutna Hora famous for its bone church and Czech Republic will be guaranteed to transport you back to the time of Kings and Queens and convert you into a history buff.



General statistics & Helpful Information

Capital city: Prague

Population: 10.6 million

Religion: Around two thirds of the population are atheists, Catholicism is the major religion

Official language: Czech

Time Zone: UTC+1, both summer and winter times are used

Currency: Czech Koruna (CZK)

Dialling code: +420

Internet Domain: .cz

Visa: No visa required for EU citizens. Schengen visa for Non-EU members



WHY CZECH REPUBLIC?

- ✓ Czech Republic is located centrally in Europe with fantastic air connectivity from International hubs and major European cities.
- ✓ Ranked the 6th safest destination out of 163 countries in the world
- ✓ 12 historical UNESCO Heritage sites
- ✓ Over 200 castles, chateaux and monuments
- ✓ 40+ protected historical towns
- ✓ 33 spas
- ✓ Golf courses

TIPS

The locals speak foreign languages including English, German and Russian at basic level and are slowly improving. The locals however, will definitely appreciate if a visitor makes an effort to speak in the local language. Sometimes a greeting or a courtesy phrase is enough:

Dobrý den = Hello

Dobry večer = Good evening

Jak se máte? = How are you?

Prosím = Please

Děkuji = Thank you

Ano = Yes

Ne = No

PRAGUE - THE CAPITAL

Prague is likened to a stunning painting, the canvas filled with the striking **Prague castle** nestled on top of a hill, next to it the gothic 14th century iconic Charles Bridge connecting the Old Town and

Lesser Town and below the celestial **Vltava river**. Prague is a splendid confluence of yester years and modern times. There are numerous galleries, museums, theatres, cafes, restaurants, music clubs, parks, malls and more. Only in Prague can you enjoy your morning coffee in a **historical café** visited by **Kafka** and **Einstein**, have a hearty lunch at a **contemporary and chic restaurant** and enjoy your evening at a beer garden or a micro-brewery or attend a concert in the same hall where Mozart premiered the world famous, Opera of Operas, *Don Giovanni*. Within the city itself there are several parks complete with walking and biking tracks, ponds, small restaurants and picnic spots perfect for the day when you want to soak in the magic of the city.

Czech Republic has a rich history dating back to the Middle Ages. The country did not suffer destruction during the world wars and hence its stunning historical sites and monuments can be witnessed in their full glory today exactly as they were when constructed centuries back.

Prague is one of the few European cities to have experienced little destruction during the war and as a result till today stands as one of the best destinations to experience design and architecture dating back to medieval times. It is home to the world's largest castle complex – Prague Castle – the shiniest jewel in the city's skyline – sitting atop the Vltava river. It still houses government offices and the seat



of the President. Prague also boasts of one of Europe's oldest stone bridges – Charles Bridge and the world's oldest Astronomical clock – the 600 year old wonder located in the Old Town Square. And if you are someone who loves intrigue and mystery, the 12th century underground city of Prague is the perfect place for you to satisfy your inner Sherlock Holmes. The fact that Mozart chose, the still intact and functional, Estates Theatre for the debut of the most famous opera *Don Giovanni*, is a great testimony for the pull of this magical city.



CESKY KRUMLOV & CESKE BUDEJOVICE & HLUBOKA NAD VLTAVO

Cesky Krumlov is a medieval town in the South Bohemian region of Czech Republic, at the foot of Sumava Mountains, rightly called as the **Pearl of "Renaissance**. Surrounded by the Vltava river this poetic town is a UNESCO World Heritage site owing to its exceptionally preserved Gothic and Renaissance buildings creating a picture-perfect centre of old houses, narrow winding streets and mysterious nooks and crannies. The castle area, a complex of forty buildings and palaces and a magnificent park spanning 7 hectares, is one of the largest in Central Europe. Canoeing in the encompassing river is a popular activity here and a great way to spend a warm summer afternoon.

Ceske Budejovice is the capital of South Bohemia region and a convenient base to explore the region. It is where the original **Budweiser beer** was born. Tourists can visit the brewery on a tour and learn about the production process of this world-famous lager which ends with beer tasting.

Hluboka nad Vltavou is a neo-gothic jewel of South Bohemia and is a must visit for history lovers, hopeless romantics and even sports lovers. It is a good day trip option from both Cesky Krumlov and Ceske Budejovice.



PILSEN

Pilsen is home to the world-famous beer brand – Pilsner Urquell – arguably the world's beer capital. Born more than 175 years ago this beer is sold in more than 50 countries in the world and has the highest output in the central and eastern Europe. Beer lovers consider the **Brewery Museum** in Pilsen almost like a "pilgrimage" Here one can

experience history of Pilsen pubs, see the complete facilities of the brewery, including the laboratory and at the end you can even taste the beverage fondly called the 'liquid bread' in Czech Republic.



KARLOVY VARY & MARIANSKE LAZNE

Karlovy Vary, a leading spa destination of Europe, with 81 has the largest concentration of hot therapeutic mineral springs in the world. The city is sprinkled with delightful colonnades, the largest and most famous being the pseudo-Renaissance style **Mlýnska Colonnade** with dense columns, numerous scriptures and six healing springs. Other must visit are springs are in the Vřídelní Colonnade, Tržní Colonnade and Sadová Colonnade. The Emperor Spa made famous in the James Bond movie Casino Royale cannot be missed. If you are 'tired' of all the rejuvenation one can visit the **Moser Museum of Glass** and Glassworks and **Jan Becher Museum** to witness how the world-famous liqueur **Becherovka** is made. Or you can play **golf** at one of the 9 golf courses, visit local festivals or be present in the city to witness it in its full glory in July during the International Film Festival.

A visit to any destination in Czech Republic is incomplete without exploring a stunning castle. **Loket Castle**, 15mins drive from Karlovy Vary, is one of the oldest (12th century) stone castles in the country. The castle is associated with the life of King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV and is a small medieval town surrounded by the Ohre river.

Less than an hour away from Karlovy Vary is **Mariánské Lazne** home to almost one hundred mineral springs, not thermal, but cold waters with high iron and mineral salt content which help in curing musculoskeletal, excretory and respiratory diseases.



LIBEREC

The architecturally remarkable city of Liberec lies in the embrace of the Jizera mountains at the foot of Mount Jested. In recent years, it has become a popular destination thanks primarily to a number of

entertainment centres. The Gothic Revival-style **Sychrov Chateau**, located 20kms away, is not only a popular film location, but also one of the most significant heritage sites representing the historical style of the 19th century.



BRNO

Brno has a zestful heart, unique vibe and is the fourth most popular student city in the world. It is the creative capital of the country and is in the list of **UNESCO Creative Cities of Music**. It is the **most flowering city of Europe**. One cannot miss visiting the UNESCO preserved **Villa Tugendhat**, example of exemplary modern architecture of Czech Republic. The gastronomical scene is evolving daily with growing numbers of high-quality restaurants, pubs, stylish cafes and wine bars scattered across the city. Brno is also an ideal base for day trips to 7 UNESCO heritage sites including the **Moravian Karst** nature reserve home to dramatic caverns and gorges, **Palava wine region**, the dreamy **Pernstejn castle** and the famous Napoleon battlefield in **Austerlitz**. Brno also hosts the **Grand Prix Brno Moto GP** every year in summer.



OSTRAVA

Ostrava is a fascinating industrial gallery under the open skies. It is most famous for the technical monument **Dolní Vítkovice**, the fourth most visited tourist destination of the country and hosts two of the largest music festivals – **Colours of Ostrava** and **Beats for Love**. Other must visit places are the **Bolt Tower**, **Michal Mine**, **Landek Park** and nearby **Kopřivnice** where one can see the most complex collection of Tatra passenger vehicles and trucks at the **Technical Museum of Tatra**.

The city is also a dream-come-true for sports lovers as it houses 205 sport grounds, 5 stadiums, 130 gyms, 3 winter stadiums, 5 swimming pools, 11 indoor swimming pools, 264 sport clubs, and 15 horse riding clubs in the City. The natural swimming pool in Ostrava-Poruba, having an area of 41,000 m², belongs among the biggest in Central Europe.



OLOMOUC

One of the **holiest** places in the country, Olomouc is home to Baroque's pilgrim's Basilica of **Virgin Mary on Svatý Kopeček** which is situated above the city, which was promoted to basilica minor by Pope John Paul II. The city received the prestigious **European Heritage Label, Lonely Planet's** recognition of one of Europe's most beautiful, less known destinations and the magnificent **Holy Trinity Plague Column** was the **first Czech site to** be included on the UNESCO list. The city is famous for the excellent ripened cheese, tvaruzky of Olomouc, enjoyed best at one of the craft breweries or at one of the many festivals.



KRKONOSE

Krkonoše Mountains is the **highest mountain range** of the Czech Republic. With some mountains bare and others lush with meadows and woods falling sharply to form deep valleys there is no place more idyllic and tranquil than in the lap of mother nature. The mountains offer unforgettable active holiday options from **Mountain Biking** in **Spindleruv Mlyn**, to adrenaline pumping activities like wall climbing, giant swing, bungee trampoline, bobsleigh and rope courses at **Vertical Park in Harrachov-Myto** which are also kid-friendly. For serious adventure enthusiasts the mountains offer lot of trekking and hiking opportunities through strenuous but stunning Alpine-like countryside in **Obří důl Valley to Slezka**. A must visit is the cableway to Čerťáková Hora passing through breathtaking views.



BOHEMIAN PARADISE & BOHEMIAN SWITZERLAND

Bohemian Paradise is the only **UNESCO listed geo-park** in Central Europe consisting of rock towns most famous being **Prachovské Skály** (Prachov Rocks) where the forces of nature have carved the sandstone rocks in unusual shapes. One can also add trips to the beautiful Baroque castles in the vicinity including **Trosky** and **Valdštejn** castles. Other impressive sites with rock formations nearby are Adršpach-Teplice Rocks and Ostaš and Broumov Walls.

Bohemian Switzerland is a scenic region near the German border. The **Pravčická brána** rock formation is the **largest natural sandstone arch** in Europe and is an ideal destination on an all-day hike in the area of Hrensko. The romantic boat trip through the gorges of the Labe River is ideal for couples, who can admire the natural beauty surrounding them from the comfort of the boat and can also enjoy lunch on board.

A must visit trip should be to the nearby **Kost castle**, an imposing stone structure built in the middle of the forest.



SLOVAKIA

Nestled in the heart of Europe, Slovakia is a little gem, underrated and unexplored. For such a small country it is astonishing that it packs in so much - diverse regions, rich folk history, stunning landscapes, activities galore, numerous UNESCO sites and so much more.

Visit Bratislava to see seamless confluence of old and young architecture and life, the High and Low Tatra Mountains region for its peaks, Zips region (Levoča – St. Jakob church highest gothic altar in the world (18,6 m), Kežmarok wooden evangelical church) Kosice region with biggest cathedral St. Elisabeth in Slovakia and for Tokaj sweet wine and castles Krásna Hôrka and Betliar.



General statistics & Helpful Information

Capital City: Bratislava

Population: 5,5 million

Religion: more than two thirds of the population are Catholic

Official Language: Slovak

Time Zone: UTC+1, both summer and winter times are used

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Dialling code: +421

Internet domain: .sk

Visa: No visa required for EU citizens. Schengen visa for Non-EU

TIPS

The locals speak English and German most commonly. In some southern parts of the country Hungarian language is also spoken. It is always good to know some basic local language phrases to strike up some interesting conversations:

WHY SLOVAKIA?

- ✓ The only capital in the world bordering two countries
- ✓ The highest wooden altar in the world
- ✓ Remarkably diverse nature
- ✓ More than 1300 mineral springs
- ✓ First reservation of folk architecture in the world
- ✓ More than 6000 caves



Ahoj= Hello

Dobré rano = Good morning

Dobrý den = Good afternoon

Dobrý večer = Good evening

Ako sa máš ? = How are you?

Prosím = Please

Ďakujem = Thank you

Áno = Yes

Nie = No

Highway Network

Capital city Bratislava is connected by highway to the cities in Slovakia: Žilina, Banska Bystrica, Poprad – Tatry, Košice
Capital city Bratislava is international connected by highway to the cities : Vienna, Budapest, Prague, Krakow, Warsaw, Berlin, Ljubljana, Zagreb, Belgrade....

Railroad Network

Bratislava is connected by Eurocity train to : Vienna, Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Belgrade, Zagreb, Ljubljana...

Bratislava is connected by Intercity train to Slovak cities: Trnava, Trenčín, Žilina, Poprad-Tatry, Košice, Nitra, Banská Bystrica

Accessibility by Plane

Vienna international airport (only 60 minutes distance) – Intercontinental connections,

Bratislava International Airport – connections to Britain, Italy, Belgium, Serbia, Bulgaria, Russia, Poland, Czech and Charter flights to Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Tunis and Spain

Crossing on Danube river:

Bratislava is connected with Vienna 3 times a day by Catamaran "Twin City" and 1 time a day by hydrofoil boat



BRATISLAVA - THE CAPITAL

One of the youngest capital cities in the world yet known for its historical monuments – that is Bratislava for you. The highlight of the city is the contrast owing to its 2,400-years-old history and the energy of a youthful city. The city is at the base of Small Carpathians Mountain Range and on the longest river in Europe, Danube known as Dunaj in Slovakian. The most attractive sights are located in the



cobbled streets and magical squares of the Old Town including the National Theatre, **Blue Church of St Elisabeth, St Martin's crowning Cathedral** and **Bratislava Castle**. Cycle along Danube, embark upon a cruise to Devin castle or visit **Cerveny Kamen**.

HIGH AND LOW TATRAS MOUNTAINS

High Tatras Mountains are one of the smallest mountain ranges in the world yet the highest of Slovakia over 2500m height. They are the only alpine mountains of the Carpathian range and spread across the border Slovakia and Poland. Low Tatra Mountains are famous for their caves Demänovská jaskyňa slobody and Demänovská ľadová jaskyňa. Tourists from Europe and some other parts of the world flock to the Slovakia side of the mountains as it offers stunning landscapes for number of highly active holidays including mountain biking, hiking, caving and skiing. The National Park of High Tatras is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 1993.



BOJNICE CASTLE

Bojnice castle is one of the most visited castles in all of Central Europe. It won't be an exaggeration to say that castles painted in fairy tales are inspired by this Romantic Castle located in central Slovakia.



SPIS CASTLE

Spišský Hrad – Spis (Zyps) Castle made famous by films like Dragon Heart is one of the largest castle complexes in Europe spreading over 4 hectares. Along with the neighboring medieval monuments of the Spišská Kapitula town, Spišské Podhradie municipality, and Žehra Church it has been registered in the list of monuments of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage of UNESCO. Significant are also Spiš cities Levoča - cathedral St. Jakob - highest gothic altar in the world and Kežmarok - with wooden evangelical church.



KOSICE

Košice is the 2nd largest city in Slovakia. A place where east and west meet, where history and human destiny mix with the present. A unique Central European metropolis and European Capital of Culture 2013! Košice is home to the oldest marathon in Europe, it boasts the largest heritage reservation in Slovakia, as well as the largest and most important gold treasure in Europe, but most importantly, it is a city where life is lived and enjoyed.

For a long time Košice served as one of the vital commercial cross-roads of Europe. It has always been the centre of Eastern Slovakia, a region of special importance within the Kingdom of Hungary. Medieval Košice was one of the most densely populated urban areas of the Kingdom. In the 13th century, an association of 24 towns of the Spiš region was formed here, as well as the association of 7 mining towns and the so called Pentapolitana, which united the 5 most important cities of Upper Hungary.



CASTLE DEVÍN

The place at the estuary of the river Morava to river Danube was inhabited since prehistoric times. The Celtic people lived here from the 4th century b.c. to the 1st century, Romans from the 1st century to 5th century, 7th to 10th century Slavic people. In the 9th century, this place is associated with the name of Duke Rastislav, who built here a huge Great Moravia fortress and Duke Svatopluk who in the year 863 took Christianity from Cyril and Method. In the 13th century Hungarian kings built a border royal gothic fortress on the upper castle, further construction work was carried out during the 15th - 17th century, with several owners. In 1809 the castle was destroyed by Napoleonic troops. In the 1930s, archaeological research was done. 1960 to 1968 was the first reconstruction and since 1989 a reconstruction of the castle area. The foundations of the Great Moravia church from the mid-9th century, the Upper palace and the Renaissance palace on which is a memorial plaque commemorating the beginning of writing the first Slovak literature in 1836. In 1961 Devin Castle was declared a national cultural monument. Even though it is a reconstructed ruin it is a very interesting place because there are nice views to Panonic plain, to Vienna plain and Morava plain and to the estuary of the rivers.



CASTLE ČERVENÝ KAMEŇ

Placed in the Little Carpathian Mountains - Red Stone Castle was built in the first half of the 13th century at the request of Queen Konstancia of Hungary, the widow of the Czech king, on her own land and at the same time the castle got the name – Red Stone (Červený Kamen in Slovak or Beaver Castle). The castle was originally the King's fortress, later passed into the ownership of Matus Cak Trenciansky and a number of aristocratic families like Zapolski, Turzo and the counts of Svaty Jur and Pezinok. Since the end of the 15th century the owners of the castle are the Fugger family.

The two noble families Fugger and Pálffy played the most significant role in the history of the castle. Anton Fugger, the head of the family, decided to utilize the strategic position of Red Stone and to transform the old gothic castle into a safe storehouse for goods traded across the whole of Europe. Rebuilding the medieval castle into the renaissance fortress required a serious investment. Business plans of the Fugger family in this part of Europe grew gradually weaker. The reason was the increasing danger of the Turks. Hence they decided to sell the castle.

Many buyers were interested in purchasing the castle but only one could be the winner. In 1588, the young Baron Mikulas II Pálffy finally became the owner of the whole estate (also won the heart of a young woman Maria Magdalena Fugger, the daughter of Marek Fugger and the grandchild of already mentioned Anton Fugger). De-

scendants of Mikulas and Maria held the estate until 1945.

Many castle reconstructions had been done by the Pálffy family. In the 16th century Renaissance, 17th century, the castle was rebuilt in an early baroque style. Further modernization and enlargement of the castle were carried out in the second half of the 18th century. The next centuries did not bring any significant changes in a shape and outward aspect of the castle.

The last owners family Pálffy left in 1945. Thereafter, the castle was proclaimed national cultural property and since 1945 until today in the castle is a Museum of historical furniture and weapons. The visit to the Museum of Red stone castle is included in the program of Little Carpathian Mountains Tour.



LEVOČA

The historic town Levoča, situated in the east of the Spiš region, is a true cultural and historic jewel among the Slovak towns as it possesses a great number of architectural monuments linked with the glorious past of the town.

The Spiš town of Levoča, situated in the east of Slovakia below the mountain range Levočské vrchy, because of its rich history, is one of the most visited by tourists in the country. The Town Monument Reserve of Levoča represents a complete set of important cultural and historical monuments bordered by the oblong, relatively well-preserved town walls. The dominant part of the old Levoča is the large rectangular square, with the Roman-Catholic St. James church from the 14th century, which is one of the most important sacral buildings in Slovakia. The tall slender church tower from the first half of the 19th century is the most distinct feature in the city's silhouette.

High above the town towers the Mariánska hora Mt. (781 m). Every year at the beginning of July Levoča becomes the meeting point of



the largest pilgrimage in Slovakia. Tens of thousands of pilgrims in long queues ascend to the mountain to render their gratitude to the Virgin Mary in public services in the Neo-Gothic church of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary from the beginning of the 20th century. The original pilgrim chapel was rebuilt into a small Gothic church in 1470. The interior of the new church contains the wonderful statue of the Virgin Mary which is now the main symbol of the pilgrimage to Levoča. Levoča has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2009.

ČIČMANY

The typical village ČIČMANY surrounded by the mountains Strážovské vrchy and Malá Fatra in the southern part of the valley Rajecká dolina is famous for its original log houses with the typical white ornamentation. The unique and characteristic element of log houses in Čičmany are their exteriors ornamented in geometrical patterns. The creators of the ornaments, as a rule, were women, who originally adorned only the corners of houses with mud, and later with lime. However, since the 19th century the motifs were added and painted all exteriors of non-plastered log houses.

The painting was intended to protect the logs against the effect of the sun. Geometrical ornamentation was also used in embroidery applied to garments, pictures or tablecloths. The Reserve counts 136 houses in total.



AUSTRIA

Austria is a wonderfully uncomplicated place to visit located in the heart of Europe. Most people speak English, and there is a spectacular combination of cultural and natural attractions. Austria is a country of contrasts boasting sophisticated cities crammed with culture-seeking tourists as well as epic Alpine scenery and snowy slopes brimming with skiers. Offering travellers' unparalleled beauty in the form of majestic mountains and spectacular sightseeing opportunities, it is famous for its museums and palaces, contemporary cuisine and winter sports.



General statistics & Helpful Information

Capital City: Vienna

Population: 8,83 million

Religion: around three quarters of the population are Catholic

Official Language: German

Time Zone: UTC+1, both summer and winter times are used

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Dialling code: +43

Internet domain: .at

Visa: No visa required for EU citizens. Schengen visa for Non-EU

TIPS

The locals speak English as a foreign language at a very high level. However they will definitely appreciate if a visitor makes an effort to speak in the local language. Sometimes a greeting or a courtesy phrase is enough.



WHY AUSTRIA?

- ✓ See the City Named 'Best for Quality of Life'
- ✓ Dramatic Alpine Summits
- ✓ Art, Music, and Culture
- ✓ Sweet Treats and Coffee
- ✓ Easy to Explore
- ✓ Winter Sports
- ✓ Rich History
- ✓ Beautiful Villages
- ✓ Incredible Architecture
- ✓ Location

Hallo = Hello
Guten Abend = Good Evening
Wie geht's? = How are you?
Bitte = Please
Danke = Thank you
Ja = Yes
Nein = No

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT AUSTRIA:

- Modern Austria is the German-speaking part of the Austrian (later Austro-Hungarian) Empire ruled by the Habsburg family from 1526 to 1918.
- The Austrian flag is one of the oldest national flags in the world. It dates from 1191, when Duke Leopold V fought in the Battle of Acre during the Third Crusade.
- the world's largest emerald (2860 carat) is displayed in the Imperial

Treasury of the Hofburg (Imperial Palace) in Vienna.

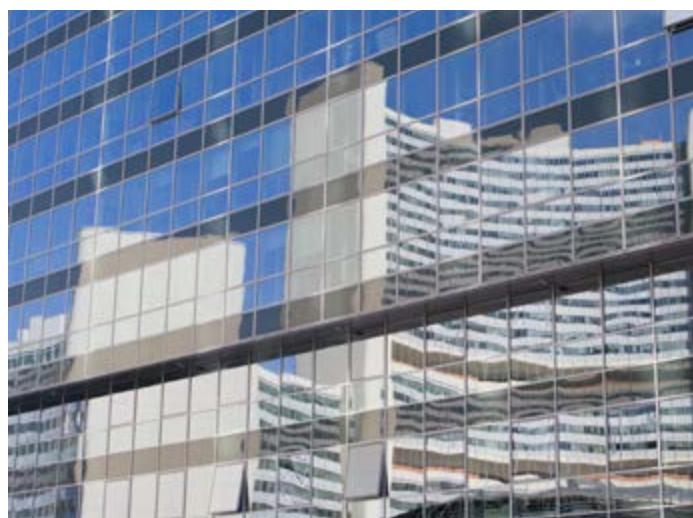
- Schönbrunn Palace, the summer palace of the Habsburgs, has no less than 1,440 rooms.
- the sewing machine was invented in 1818 by Josef Madersperger, an Austrian.
- the oldest zoological garden in the world is the Tiergarten Schönbrunn in Vienna, founded in 1752.
- Founded in 803 as Stiftskeller St. Peter, Haslauer is the world's oldest inn/restaurant still in operation, and the oldest company in Europe.
- Vienna's Central Cemetery (Zentralfriedhof) has over 2.5 million tombs (more than the city's live population), including those of Beethoven, Brahms, Gluck, Schubert, Schoenberg and Strauss.
- Austria is the only continental EU country that is not a member of NATO.
- Austria has given the world many famous classical music composers, including Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Liszt, J. Strauss, Mahler, and Bruckner.
- Arnold Schwarzenegger, former Hollywood actor and current governor of California, grew up as an Austrian citizen.
- the father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud, was Austrian.
- Many prominent members of the Rothschild family of bankers and investors were Austrian citizens.
- the founder of the German sports car company 'Porsche' was the Austrian Ferdinand Porsche. He also designed the Volkswagen (the "people's car").
- as of late 2012, 19 Austrians had been awarded a Nobel Prize, including seven in Physiology or Medicine, four in Chemistry and three in Physics. This is one of the highest numbers of Nobel laureates per capita, just after Luxembourg, Scandinavian countries and Switzerland. The Austrian novelist and radical pacifist Bertha von Suttner were the first woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize, in 1905.

LEISURE, MICE AND EVENTS - WHY IS AUSTRIA APPROPRIATE

Central location in Europe, easy accessibility, safest destination, beauty and charm, excellent infrastructure and suppliers, compact, and a perfect mix of living history and the contemporary, are some of the keywords that describe AUSTRIA and Vienna (capital of Austria), as an ideal combination for MICE, Business and Leisure Travel.

Vienna's success as a congress metropolis is based on many different factors: meetings in the Austrian capital are optimally supported by municipal and academic facilities, and with many licensed certification agencies for Green Meetings, Vienna has already demonstrated vision with respect to environmental sustainability, and the city's growing importance as a Central European hub is proving a valuable asset. Besides, new hotel projects in the up-market segment coupled with the redevelopment of the area around the new Main Station are generating sustainable impetus.

In 2012, Vienna International added a new terminal building that doubled the amount of terminal space at the airport and the airlines are strengthening their flight services to Austria due to increased demand.



The capital city of Austria, Vienna ranks as a top international meeting destination. The strategic location of the city in the middle of Europe makes it a favorite among meeting planners. The city is also a governmental and cultural centre of Austria – one of the richest countries in the world.

The largest of Vienna's MICE venues, the Messe Wien Exhibition & Congress centre features an Exhibition centre measuring more than 55,000 square meters that can host up to 30,000 guests and a 7,000 square meters Congress centre with space for up to 3,000 guests.

The Hofburg Vienna conference and event centre is located within the Hofburg complex. Its origins date back to the 13th century. Formerly the imperial residence for centuries, today it is the premiere venue for congresses and conventions, fairs and exhibitions – as well as banquets, balls and concerts. The Hofburg Vienna generates an annual



net revenue of ten to eleven million euro. Every year, the 300 events hosted here draw approximately 320,000 guests from every point on the globe into the congress centre.

Vienna MICE hotels include the 579-room Hilton Vienna, which has space to host up to 840 people, the 369-room Imperial Riding School Renaissance Vienna (whose largest space has capacity for 432 guests), the 323-room Vienna Marriott (500); and the 294-room Le Meridien Wien (350) and Hilton Vienna Danube Waterfront. Smaller MICE hotels in Vienna include the 152-room Palais Hansen Kempinski hotel, the 117-room Penta hotel and Hilton Vienna Plaza (165), among others.

VIENNA - THE CAPITAL

MUSIC

Vienna is the capital of Austria and the world's capital of music. Many composers have lived and worked in this beautiful city including Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Johann Strauss senior and junior, Johannes Brahms, Richard Strauss, Alban Berg and many more. The importance of music and its heritage is seen in many corners of this city such as:

Vienna State Opera House – the first major building on the famous Ring street built in 1869 in the Neo-Renaissance style. The members of the Vienna Philharmonic are recruited from the orchestra of the Vienna State Opera. Two of the many artistic directors included Gustav Mahler, Richard Strauss and Herbert von Karajan. The famous Vienna Opera Ball (Opernball) takes place annually on the last Thursday in Fasching and include many visitors including artists, actors, politicians and athletes.

Musikverein – it is best known for its annual New Year's Day Concert of the Vienna Philharmonic in the magnificent Golden Hall

Michaelerplatz / St. Michael's Church – Mozart's Requiem was performed here for the first time during his funeral service on December 10, 1791. Also, here in 1749 young Joseph Haydn played the organ

Mozart Statue – Burggarten, created by V. Tilgner in 1896
Franz Schubert's Birth House (Schuberts Geburtshaus) – Nußdorfer Straße 54, the 9th district
Statue of Johann Strauss senior and Joseph Lanner – Rathauspark, the 1st district
Beethoven Museum – Probusgasse 6, the 19th district



Other sights:
Schönbrunn palace
St. Stephen's cathedral
The Spanish Riding School
Schönbrunn palace
Belvedere palace
Giant Wheel
Schönbrunn palace
Belvedere palace
Giant Wheel



WINE TAVERNS

Viennese wine taverns are called "Heurige" and they reflect the cozy atmosphere along with Viennese wines, delicious food and sometimes live music. Young and old, tourists and locals – everybody feels good when spending time in this typical viennese atmosphere located in the beautiful outskirts of Vienna such as Neustift, Grinzing, Nussdorf, Mauer, Stammersdorf and more.

SALZBURG

The fourth biggest city of Austria and the capital of the Federal State of Salzburg will charm you with its Baroque architecture of the Altstadt (the city centre), many churches and the small distance to its Alpine surroundings. Salzburg is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996. Music plays a very prominent role in this 150,000-population town because Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756 here and his house of birth and residence are must-see tourist attractions. What is more, the "Sound of Music" film was shot in Salzburg and surrounding areas, so many visitors are eager to do the tour of the same name. Every summer Salzburg Festival with its concerts, operas and theatre performances celebrates the importance of music and the arts.



Hallstatt

A small town in Upper Austria on the national road linking Salzburg and Graz, is surrounded by nature that can take one's breath away. Hallstatt's lake and the location are both in the Hallstatt-Dachstein/Salzkammergut Alpine UNESCO World Heritage Site. Hallstätter See mountain lake is famous for its beautiful scenery, activities such as boating, fishing or diving as well as the villages of Hallstatt, Obertraun and Steeg. Hallstatt is famous for its old town with a 19th century Evangelical Church and Market square. The attraction not to miss here is Hallstatt Salt World, accessible by the funicular railway or cable car. The Skywalk viewing platform on the 350 metres above Hallstatt is where the beauty of this region can be seen and pictures taken. The salt mine with its mining methods and Subterranean lake hides the history of more than 7,000 years old.



SPORT EVENTS

Alpine Skiing – Men's World Cup in Kitzbuehel, hosted annually in the last week of January, the Hahnenkammrennen is known as the most dangerous downhill slope racecourse for the "Streif" race. Many visitors from around the world are fascinated by the skiers showing such courage, so the atmosphere in this week turns into a festival and celebrities, politicians and many tourists are drawn to take part in being here

Tennis – Vienna Open, hosted annually in October in the Wiener Stadthalle this is the ATP 500 tournament on the surface of Indoor Hard court and given its fourth highest tier of Men's tournaments in tennis many tennis stars have participated here in the previous years

Formula One – Austrian Grand Prix, was first held in 1963, it has 71 laps and is taking place in Spielberg in Styria on the renamed Red Bull Ring



10 reasons WHY AUSTRIA:

1. See The City Named 'Best for Quality Of Life'

Vienna has been named 'City with the best quality of life' 8 times in a row by consulting firm Mercer. Low crime rates, clean air, cheap rents, and a rich culture are a few of the reasons why it has been given this accolade.

2. Dramatic Alpine Summits

The great outdoors beckons in Austria, and hikers will adore what the countryside has to offer. Trekking across the regions around the Tyrolean Mountains will take hikers around some of the most striking landscapes. 'The Eagle Walk' is one of the most famous routes, taking people across over 400 km (248.5 miles) of natural beauty.

3. Art, Music, and Culture

Throughout the 19th century, Vienna was a powerhouse of art, music, and culture. The legacy from those golden years still live on. Klimt, Mozart, Wagner, Schubert, and Strauss are just a few of the creative names that Austria has produced, and their lives and works are preserved in some of the finest museums and galleries in Europe. Considered to be Austria's cultural heart, many cities other than Vienna are also developing creatively. Salzburg's Museum of Modern Art has become a go-to contemporary-art gallery, and its music scene (classical and modern) thrives.

4. Sweet Treats and Coffee

Sweet-toothed visitors to Austria, beware. Virtually every street in Austria contains at least one bakery. The self-proclaimed capital of cake, Austrians are very passionate about their confectionery. Be sure to try a slice in one of Vienna's coffee houses—uniquely-atmospheric institutions that people won't find elsewhere.

5. Easy To Explore

Relatively small, visitors can hop from city to city across Austria and stop by the countryside on the way. The bus and train routes offer relatively inexpensive and stress-free rides, and all of the major cities (Vienna, Linz, Graz) are well-connected. Road trips will give tourists the chance to see gorgeous natural landscapes one day and idyllic cities the next.

6. Winter Sports

The Alps surrounding Austria provide a skier's paradise. Many natives and tourists head to the hills at least once a year to partake in a little gliding, slipping, and sliding. They do so for good reason—wide, quiet runs, fantastic après ski, and all for a fraction of France or Switzerland prices. Alpbach in Tyrol, is one of the most picture-perfect destinations skiers will find—so sweet that it resembles a model village in a snow globe with its wooden chalets with glowing orange windows and traditional inns.

7. Rich History

From the Austro-Hungarian Empire to WWII, Austria's past is complex and at times, dark. Once considered the 'capital of Europe', the Austro-Hungarian Empire was a domineering force from 1867 until its collapse after WWI. Following the dismemberment of the Habsburg monarchy in 1918, the Austrian government acquired many of the palaces, gardens, and castles that once belonged to the ruling emperors and turned them into public spaces and museums that act as amazing relics and remnants for tourists to examine. Flak towers left over from the Nazi's reign also remain dotted around Vienna, a stark reminder of the devastation caused during WWII.

8. Beautiful Villages

Providing dainty-wooden-alpine-style houses, lush meadows, and glittering lakes, Austria offers much to explore beyond Vienna, Graz, and Linz. Hallstatt is a favorite and must-visit for many. Located directly by a lake in the mountainous UNESCO World Heritage region of Salzkammergut, its beauty is such that the ancient salt mine has been replicated by the Chinese.

9. Incredible Architecture

Across Austria, the architectural styles are spectacularly diverse. The so-called 'Red Vienna' era—between 1918 and 1934—saw a surge in social housing crop up around the city as a result of the Social-Democrat government. Many of the buildings designed around this time were considered highly innovative and forward-thinking, with architects such as Otto Wagner leading the way. Situated in Heiligenstadt, a neighborhood of the 19th district of Vienna, the Karl-Marx-Hof—often referred to as a 'people's palace'—is one such building.

10. Location

Fantastically located right in the heart of Europe, Austria borders Slovenia, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Germany. It is also a relatively-easy bus or train ride to the sunny shores of Croatia and Italy. Those wandering around the continent on a backpacking tour don't really have an excuse not to pay a visit to Austria, even if it is a fleeting one.



HUNGARY

This small country is one of the oldest European countries, situated in the middle of the continent in Central Europe.

This is the country:

- which boasts one of the world's most beautiful cities: Budapest, the "Pearl of the Danube"
- where 2,000-year-old Roman ruins and 400-year-old Turkish monuments can be found side by side
- where Central Europe's largest freshwater lake - Balaton - is located, providing a natural paradise for its visitors
- Land of thermal baths: where hundreds of therapeutic mineral springs gush up from the depths
- And there is something else that keeps bringing visitors back to us - the legendary Hungarian hospitality.



General statistics & Helpful Information

Capital City: Budapest

Population: 9,7 million

Religion: more than half of the population is Catholic

Official Language: Hungarian

Time Zone: UTC+1, both summer and winter times are used

Currency: Forint

Dialling code: +36

Internet domain: .hu

Visa: No visa required for EU citizens. Schengen visa for Non-EU



makes an effort to speak in the local language. Sometimes a greeting or a courtesy phrase is enough.

Szia = Hello

Jó estét = Good Evening

Hogy vagy? = How are you?

Kérem = Please

Köszönöm = Thank you

Igen = Yes

Nem = No

LEISURE

Cultural Tourism

You can get a real flavour of Hungary past and present by tasting the culture in its galleries and museums. Furthermore, there are clues all around in the country's architecture. A single street can take you on a journey through several centuries; Hungary contains examples from a

WHY HUNGARY?

- ✓ Budapest is one of the most historical cities on the planet
- ✓ Ruin pubs in Budapest
- ✓ The largest synagogue in Europe and second largest in the world
- ✓ Budapest is the city of thermal baths
- ✓ World famous Hungarian cuisine
- ✓ The Caves of Aggtelek Karst which is a UNESCO World Heritage
- ✓ Lake Balaton
- ✓ Sziget Festival
- ✓ Wine regions

host of architectural periods, including Roman ruins, medieval castles, Baroque palaces, Art-Nouveau mansions and cutting-edge contemporary buildings. Music enthusiasts should coincide their visit with one of several international cultural and music festivals. Lovers of opera and classical music are particularly well catered for – the capital's beautiful State Opera House is world class, and there are many concert venues around the country hosting high-quality performances by famous Hungarian and international artists.

SPA culture

The geological features of the Carpathian Basin are such that the earth's crust is very thin, so waters rise easily to the surface. Hungary is a land of more than 1,000 hot springs and enough spa facilities to accommodate 300,000 people at the same time! These spas are located in big cities and smaller towns throughout the country. Despite their popularity with tourists, taking a dip in the baths remains a genuinely Hungarian experience.

Active holiday

Hungary is incredibly diverse, with a variety of landscapes and cultural attractions that are often better discovered by alternative means of transport, on horseback, by bicycle, on foot or by canoe - or perhaps a round of golf. And the great thing about these holidays is that they afford you complete flexibility - the journey is the destination.

National Parks

Hungary has 10 national parks, 36 landscape-protected areas and 142 nature-conservation areas. Its many and varied habitats include virtually intact lowland plains, bogs and marshes, wetlands, pasture land, forests and grasslands. These landscapes are home to a good range of indigenous flora and fauna, and modern facilities such as visitor centres, exhibition sites and nature trails allow you to really get to grips with the treasures of nature.

Freshwaters of Hungary

Water tourism in Hungary is a life form, with the water, sunshine, fresh air, harmonious exercise, camping and the magic of the campfire all being contributing factors, while the landscapes, colours, sounds, sunrises and picturesque sunsets assuring you of an unforgettable experience. Lovers of nature and water sports will be able to savour from a rich variety.

- Lake Balaton

The "Hungarian Sea", is the people's name for the 50-mile long lake with silky green-yellow water in the middle of Transdanubia. Lake Balaton is one of Hungary's most precious treasures and most frequented resorts. It is also the largest lake in Central Europe.

- Lake Fertő

- Lake Velence

- Lake Tisza

- Whatever the watery leisure-time activity, Hungary is a true paradise, for here, you will find an ideal location for every water sport.



The capital of Hungary is Budapest, which is also the largest and most populated city. Other major cities are Győr in the west, Pécs and Szeged in the south, Debrecen in the east and Miskolc in the northeast.

Hungary is a unitary state, divided into 19 counties. There are also 23 towns with county rights. The capital – Budapest – is independent of any county government.

BUDAPEST

Budapest. the city of sparkling lights
Some reasons why you should visit Budapest

The greatest sights are free

Budapest is a food capital – and for good reason

Budapest is the city of thermal baths

Going to the mineral-rich thermal spas is what Hungarians do, although few actually swim. These are the joints to hang out with friends, chat, chill and while away an afternoon. The most popular thermal baths in Budapest, Szechenyi Spa & Baths are also famous for night spa parties, where the music and dancing goes on until the next morning.



The café culture of Budapest

You will be stalked by fin-de-siecle cafes wherever you go. The Lotz Hall Café began life as a magnificent ballroom decorated with gilded mirrors. For a slice of world-famous caramel topped, chocolate sponge Dobos Torta, go to Gerbeaud.



"So much room for activities"

Seriously though, caving, beer bikes, escape rooms, and night cruising the Danube are just a few of the amazing things you can do in Budapest. This place is filled with different activities to suit everyone's tastes.

Sziget Festival

Sziget is a week-long festival in August on the small island located on the Danube River. The first Sziget Festival was organized back in 1993 as a small gathering and has since evolved into one of Europe's largest music festivals with the biggest names and host over 1,000 shows across 60 stages.

Hungarian Parliament

The House of the Nation, or Hungarian Parliament building, is the third largest parliament building in the world. Finished in 1902 after nearly 20 years of construction, it was built almost exclusively with Hungarian materials and contains 691 rooms. It also houses the Hungarian Crown Jewels.



The Great Synagogue is mind-blowingly beautiful

The Dohány Synagogue is the largest synagogue in Europe and the second largest synagogue in the world. Constructed in the 1850s, its style has influenced that of later synagogues, most notably New York City's Central Synagogue.



Formula 1 – Hungarian Grand Prix

Hungary has been hosting the Grand Prix since 1986.

Ruin Pubs in Budapest

The ruin pub phenomenon has taken over Budapest's nightlife a couple years ago to establish a far-reaching success formula. However, it's not only the rickety furnishing, the psychedelic interiors, and the hipster crowd that make these ramshackle properties popular, but the dilapidated edifices also boast a distinct charm.



River cruise in Budapest

A river cruise in Budapest will let you see the most fascinating sights of the historical city of Budapest.



Christmas Markets in Budapest

Budapest has Christmas Markets of various sizes, which usually open around mid-November and close at the end of December each year. The two city central markets (on Vörösmarty Square and by Basilica) attract hundreds of thousands of visitors, and are the most spectacular.

TIHANY

Tihany is one of the most popular holiday resorts on Lake Balaton. A must-visit landmark in the town itself is the beautiful 17th-century Benedictine Abbey with its spectacular views of the lake and the surrounding area, a particular treat in spring when the region's almond trees are in bloom, and again in the summer when the fields are a sea of deep-blue lavender.



SOPRON

Sopron, just 64 kilometers south of Vienna and eight kilometers from the Austrian border near the eastern foothills of the Alps, is a popular destination for day-trippers. Much of its allure stems not just from its attractive surroundings, but also from its many well preserved medieval and Baroque buildings.

EGER

Hungary has many delightful historic forts, castles, and palaces, each steeped in history. One of the best known is Eger Castle. Located in the lovely spa town of Eger on the southern slopes of the Bükk Mountains.

TOKAJ

The historic Tokaj wine region has been producing “the king of wines and the wine of kings” for 450 years. The exhibition at the Tokaj Museum traces the glorious history of the drink initially used as medicine in the middle ages. Volcanic hiking trails give a full panorama of the region.



VISEGRÁD ROYAL PALACE

Located above the beautiful old town of Visegrád in the Danube Bend, just 40 kilometers north of Budapest, the ruins of Visegrád Royal Palace and the old citadel make for an easy day trip from Hungary's capital.

GYŐR

Gyor, located between Budapest and Vienna, is a good town to just wander around in. At almost every turn you'll come across statues and marvellous old buildings. The old town at Kaptalan Hill can be found at the confluence of the Danube, Raba and Rebca rivers. A must-see is the church of St. Ignatius of Loyola, an ornate Benedictine cathedral, which visitors have described as “food for the soul.”

HORTOBÁGY NEMZETI PARK

Hortobagy National Park was established as Hungary's first national park in 1973. A key attraction is the Nine-Arch Bridge that was built in the mid-19th century for people needing to cross the heavily flooded grasslands. Another top site is the Kereag Windmill, also built in the 19th century.

DEBRECEN

Debrecen, which served as Hungary's capital various times over the century, is an important cultural centre. The city has a thriving music scene and is home to the Bela Bartok International Choir competition. Top attractions include the Reformed Great Church, the largest Protestant church in Hungary; the Deri Museum with its collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts, and the annual Flower Carnival.



HÉVÍZ

If soaking in hot springs water relaxes you, head to Heviz, home to one of the largest thermal lakes in the world. Located near Lake Balaton, Heviz is famous for its spas with many flourishing resorts. After a swim in these medicinal waters, you might want to hike in the nearby forest, or take in a food festival or outdoor concert.



AGGTELEK NATIONAL PARK

If you're a spelunker, put Aggtelek National Park on your bucket list for Hungary. Located in northern Hungary about a three-hour drive from Budapest, the park is home to the largest stalactite cave, in Europe. Guided tours, geared to physical capabilities, are available. A special cave experience is listening to concerts inside Baradla.

PÉCS

Pecs is a multicultural city where different ethnic groups coexist peacefully together, making it one of UNESCO's Cities of Peace. A mild climate, magnificent museums, medieval buildings and fine wines make Pecs a popular travel destination. Historic religious buildings are a big draw, including Pecs Cathedral, Pecs Synagogue and Mosque of Pasha Gazi Kassim.

LAKE BALATON

When relaxing at a resort becomes more appealing to you than walking another cobblestone street to see another medieval building, head to Lake Balaton. Siofok is the lake's party capital, while ferries at Fonyod take passengers to Badacsony, a major wine-growing region. The north shore offers more wineries, the historical bathing town of Balatonfured, or Keszthely with the baroque Festetics Castle.



ITALY

Few places rank as high on a travellers' bucket list as Italy.

Whatever your taste in travel, you'll satisfy it in this country that is both exotic and familiar. History, art, food, music, architecture, culture, sacred sites, charming villages, and stunning scenery are all around, and in an amazing atmosphere. Here below a selection of the best places to visit in Italy...and this is only a very small list...



General statistics & Helpful Information

Capital City: Rome

Population: 60,3 million

Religion: Catholicism is the main religion

Official Language: Italian

Time Zone: UTC+1, both summer and winter times are used

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Dialling code: +39

Internet domain: .it

Visa: No visa required for EU citizens. Schengen visa for Non-EU

WHY ITALY?

- ✓ Rich history: Italy is a place with an incredibly rich and fascinating history
- ✓ Sumptuous cuisine: Italy is among the top countries in the world when it comes to cuisine
- ✓ Diverse environments: Italy is a place with a wide variety of diverse environments, so finding the perfect place for your vacation won't be difficult.
- ✓ Great attractions: a huge variety of attractions that are fun, exciting, educational, and more.
- ✓ Cultural diversity: Every region is a small "country".
- ✓ Style: From clothes to shoes to homeware furniture and accessories, any store that wants to attract customers in big numbers just needs to throw in some "Made in Italy" motto in their advertising.
- ✓ People: Italy is also worth visiting for its people. Loud, food-obsessed and friendly, during your trip to Italy you are likely to make some new friends.



TIPS

More than one third Italians speak English. Even if only for basic communication phrases and to navigate the tourists. But to express all the emotions and capture the beauty of interaction, they will prefer to speak Italian. Below some basic phrases to get around.

Ciao = Hello

Buona sera = Good Evening

Come stai = How are you?

Per favour = Please

Grazie = Thank you

Sì = Yes

No = No

ROME - THE CAPITAL

Both for its history as the capital of much of Europe and for its present-day role as one of Europe's most vibrant cities, Rome heads the list for most tourists traveling to Italy. Relics of its ancient glories – the Colosseum, the Forum, the Pantheon, the Appian Way, and the Palatine Hill- vie with the vast riches of the Vatican as the top attractions. But between the important sights like the Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo's Pieta, take time to enjoy the city itself. Relax in the Borghese gardens, eat gelato on the Spanish Steps, explore the narrow streets of Trastevere, window-shop on the Via Veneto, and toss a coin in Trevi Fountain, so you can return again and again. It will take several trips to see it all.



VENICE

Who could fail to love a city whose streets are made of water, whose buses are boats, and where the songs of gondoliers linger in the air? It is a magical city, and its major attraction to tourists is the city itself. The hub of the city is the broad Piazza San Marco, St Mark's Square, surrounded by several of its top tourist attractions. The great Basilica of St. Mark stands beside the Doge's Palace, and overlooking both is the tall Campanile. Gondolas congregate at the end of the plaza in the Grand Canal and in the other direction, a gate under the clock tower leads into a warren of narrow winding passageways, where you're sure to get lost on the way to the Rialto Bridge. But getting lost is one of the greatest pleasures of Venice, where a postcard scene awaits around each corner.

FLORENCE

The showcase of the Italian Renaissance, Florence can at times seem like one giant art museum. The Duomo, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore is a landmark of world architecture, topped by its gravity-defying massive dome. Together with its marble-inlaid bell tower by Giotto and its octagonal Baptistry with its incomparable bronze doors by Ghiberti, this is one of the world's finest ensembles of Renaissance art. Half a dozen art museums brim with paintings and



sculpture, while more masterpieces decorate its churches. Before you overdose on art in the Uffizi Gallery and Pitti Palace, stroll through the Boboli Gardens and explore the artisans' studios and workshops of the Oltrarno, or shop for leather in Santa Croce.

THE ITALIAN LAKE DISTRICT

The Italian Lake District stretches across Northern Italy. The southern ends of most of the lakes are relatively flat but the northern ends are mountainous as the lakes reach deep into the Alps. Popular with tourists for over 100 years, the Italian Lakes combine good weather with attractive scenery. Garda is the largest lake, and offers stunning scenery, especially in its mountainous northern stretches. Como is equally stunning, with forested slopes rising directly from the water's edge. Further west, Maggiore is less popular yet just as beautiful, with several popular family resorts.



AMALFI COAST AND CAPRI

The high, precipitous Amalfi Peninsula juts sharply into the Mediterranean just south of Naples, forming the southern rim of Naples Bay. It's hard to imagine a more beautiful, or unlikely, setting for the towns that spill down its steep slopes. Streets are mostly stairways, and houses seem glued to the cliffs behind them. Flowers bloom everywhere, and below the towns are beaches caught in coves of emerald water. The Amalfi Drive, along the southern coast, is one of the world's great scenic routes. Off the end of the peninsula, and easy to reach by regular ferries, is the fabled island of Capri, with its Blue Grotto sea cave, lavish villas, and lush gardens.



THE CINQUE TERRE

The five towns that cling to the steep, rocky Mediterranean coast north of La Spezia were almost impossible to reach by land until the railway connected them by tunneling through the headlands that separate them. Today, the trail along the cliffs that locals once used to

travel from town to town is one of Italy's great hikes; the shortest and widest of its sections, between Manarola and Riomaggiore is known as the Via dell'Amore. Riomaggiore and Vernazza, with their narrow streets dropping down to tiny rock-bound harbors are the most filled with character, and despite its recent popularity with tourists, the Cinque Terre remains one of Italy's most appealing attractions.



TUSCAN HILL TOWNS

The undulating landscape of Tuscany is crowned by stone towns whose foundations go back to the Etruscans. Each sits atop a hill, and many still have the castles and towers that once defended their commanding positions. It's difficult to choose one above the others, as each has its own architecture, art, character, and a story to tell. Fairly bristling with towers and enclosed in walls that are largely intact, San Gimignano looks much as it did in the Middle Ages, when it was an important stop on the pilgrims' route to Rome. Volterra was an important Etruscan centre before the Romans came and still has remains of both civilizations today. The tourist attractions of Arezzo are the legacy of the many artists, architects, and poets who lived there. Like Volterra, walled Cortona was an Etruscan settlement and later a Roman one, but adds reminders of its Florentine past as well. Cortona is one of the oldest towns in Italy.



PISA AND LUCCA

These two nearby towns are worth visiting while you're in Tuscany, the first for the exceptional Campo dei Miracoli complex and the other for its endearing charms. The Leaning Tower of Pisa, actually the campanile for the adjacent cathedral, is a well-known Italian icon and forms

the centrepiece of a UNESCO World Heritage site that also includes the cathedral, baptistery, and Campo Santo. The highlight of the impressive baptistery is Nicola Pisano's intricately carved free-standing pulpit, a masterpiece of Romanesque sculpture. Nearby, Lucca is one of Italy's most charming towns to explore and enjoy, surrounded by wide walls whose top is a tree-lined park. Inside are beautiful Romanesque and Tuscan Gothic churches, tower houses (one of which you can climb to the top), and a Roman arena that has been "fossilized" into an oval piazza.



VERONA

The compact historic centre of this former Roman stronghold is embraced by a deep curve in the Adige River. Dominating its heart is the remarkable well-preserved first-century Roman arena, scene of the world-renowned summer opera festival. Several Roman arches are mixed among the medieval and Renaissance buildings, many of which show Verona's long history as part of the Venetian empire. Alongside the river stands the large Castelvecchio, a castle built in the 14th century, guarding a brick arched bridge, Ponte Scaligero. For all its rich treasury of architecture and art, Verona's biggest claim to tourist fame is based on pure fiction. It was the setting for Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, and over the past century, locals have obliged by creating homes, a balcony, and even a tomb for the fictional characters.



POMPEII AND HERCULANEUM

In AD 79, Mt. Vesuvius erupted violently and suddenly, engulfing the thriving Roman city of Pompeii and encasing it for more than a millennium in six meters of ash and pumice-stone. The city remained frozen in time until excavations that began in the 18th century uncovered more than half of its buildings and public spaces. The same eruption also engulfed the city of Herculaneum, but this time in molten lava, not ash. So instead of raining down and crushing buildings with

its weight, the lava flowed into and filled the city from the ground up, supporting walls and ceilings as it rose and preserving them in place. Also preserved in this airtight seal were organic materials, such as wood, textiles, and food, giving a more complete picture of life in the first century.



SICILY

The island of Sicily has earned seven places on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list, three for its ancient sites, two for natural wonders, and two for architectural treasures. Some of the finest remaining examples of ancient structures are in Sicily: at Selinunte is one of the largest Greek temples; in Agrigento, at the Valley of Temples, is one of the three most perfect Greek temples anywhere; and the 3,500 square meters of mosaics at Villa Romana del Casale in Enna decorate one of the best-preserved villas in the entire Roman Empire. Sicily's landscapes match its world-class attractions.



RAVENNA

Unlike any other city in Italy, Ravenna's artistic origins are almost entirely Byzantine, and here you'll find Western Europe's finest collection of Byzantine mosaics, all in nearly pristine condition. In the sixth century, Ravenna was the seat of the king Theodoric the Great, who was raised in Constantinople, and it became a centre for mosaic artistry that reached its zenith here. Seven buildings decorated with some of the finest examples of mosaic art are included in a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See all of them, but above all don't miss the early

fifth-century Neonian Baptistery, the impressive interior of San Vitale, and the jewel-like Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, which UNESCO calls "one of the most artistically perfect" and best preserved of all mosaic monuments.



TURIN & MILAN

One of the great industrial cities of the north, Turin, unlike Milan, is relatively small and compact, its highlights easy to explore on foot. There is a grandeur to its architecture and its formal layout, designed by the Savoys to show that they were as regal as any of Europe's royal families and could surround themselves with splendor that rivaled Paris. Its arcaded squares and avenues and royal palaces right in the centre sets the tone, but that is not all of Turin's charm. A small medieval quarter, Roman sites, and entire neighborhoods of Art Nouveau lend variety, and a riverside park with a complete faux-medieval village prove that Turin doesn't take itself too seriously. Don't miss the extraordinary Museum of Cinema in a skyscraper that was once a synagogue. Turin's contrasts will charm you - as will its coffee houses and grand cafés.

Italy's most cosmopolitan city, Milan is famous for football and fashion. The destination is also known for its natural attractions and fashion shows that are organized twice in a year. The city witnesses the influx of buyers, designers, and supermodels from all over the world during the shows. A great inspiration to the global fashion designers, Milan is definitely among the places to see in Italy. Milan also attracts many to its surviving world-famous treasures like Leonardo da Vinci's painting, The Last Supper, the La Scala Opera House, the Castello Sforzesco and one of the world's largest Gothic cathedrals. Nonetheless, Milan sometimes appears less Italian compared to the country's predominantly historic cities and more of a glamorous city with modern architecture.



SARDINIA

This enigmatic Mediterranean island seems worlds apart from Italy, and is itself a land of stark contrasts. Best known for its glamorous Costa Smeralda, the jet-set paradise of luxury enclaves set against emerald waters of the northeast coast, Sardinia has a lot more to offer the adventurous tourist, or even the sun-loving beach seeker. The entire south is ringed with mile after mile of white-sand beaches, and the rugged interior is prime territory for hikers; climbers; and those who want to explore remote mountain villages, where old traditions not only survive but are a way of life. But the most enigmatic and fascinating attractions are the hundreds of mysterious round stone towers known as Nuraghe that dot the entire island. Prehistoric sites are everywhere and include these towers, sacred wells, "giants' tombs," and other ancient structures. Entire Phoenician and Roman cities wait to be explored.



9 REASONS WHY ITALY IS A GREAT DESTINATION FOR THE MICE INDUSTRY

1. Accessibility: Italy can be easily reached from anywhere in Europe via flight, car, train and cruise ships. For example, the UK is linked to 29 airports in Italy.

2. Incomparable Post-Congress destination: With its artistic heritage, the culture, the full program of international events and the incredible selection of venues for sophisticated banquets activities, Italy is a great destination post-congress. Do not forget that Italy has 54 World Heritage Sites, a number that makes the country the number one in the world.

3. Quality/price ratio: Italy can also offer non-expensive solutions and destinations with interesting quality/price ratio.

4. Wine and Food: Each region has a food and wine tradition that represents one of the main aspects of the offer both in terms of quality and for the wide range of products available. Food and wine in Italy are based on the Mediterranean diet and a healthy balance of fresh ingredients.

5. Italians are really friendly: And they are also the sunniest people in the world. Maybe it is because of the weather mixed with the local culture and tradition, that is traditionally open to any guests and artists. This attitude helps a lot to create the right atmosphere for any occasion.

6. The Weather: Italy attracts all the benefits of the Mediterranean climate, that is the best weather in the world. This means that even during the winter season, you can still enjoy days with sun and moderate temperatures.

7. Great Events: Milan hosted the Expo 2015 and this created tre-

mendous attention by international media and increased the interest in the city. Whether in sports, politics or culture, great events automatically generate high interest for the destination.

8. Exclusivity: Italy appears so attractive with its striking historical and cultural buildings for corporate events since the demand of unique locations, that can be exclusively used as venues for events, is exponentially growing.

9. High Organisational skills: Facilities and services offer a highly efficient and very well-organised system. Most important, events are professionally organised and meet the highest European standards by Convention Bureaus, Congress Buildings and Centres.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Currency: since 2001, the currency used in Italy is the euro. One euro is divided into 100 euro-cents. There are eight different coins (1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 euro-cents) and seven notes (5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros).

Credit cards as well as cash, purchases can be paid for using the most common credit cards. This payment system is common in Italian shops, which generally display the symbols of the credit cards they accept on the door. If you pay by credit card you will be asked to show an identity document. Travellers cheques (in USD or Euros) can also be cashed in Italian banks.

Tips are not compulsory and in Italy there are no generally established rules, although it is common practice to leave a sum amounting to around 10% of the bill if you are satisfied with the service you have received.

Religions the Italian Constitution guarantees freedom of worship. Most of the population is Catholic; there are also, however, a large number of minority religious communities, some of them of Christian or Catholic inspiration, such as the Apostolic Church, the Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), the Waldensian Evangelical Church and the Holy Orthodox Archdiocese, as well as Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and Buddhist communities.

What are the typical mealtimes in Italy? Italians usually have breakfast from 7.00 a.m. onwards. Hotels generally set a time (around 10.00 a.m.) after which breakfast may no longer be ordered. In restaurants, lunch is served from 12.30 to 14.30 p.m., and dinner between 19.30 and 23.00. These times are merely indicative, and may vary significantly, depending on the area of the country you are visiting: in the north they tend to be earlier, becoming later the further south you travel.

What are the shop opening hours? Shops are generally open from Monday to Saturday, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 and from 15.30 p.m. to 19.30 p.m., although shopping centres and department stores often stay open all day, from 10.00 a.m. to 09.00 or 22.00 p.m. Shopping centres and stores are also open on several Sundays throughout the year. Pharmacies have the same opening hours as shops, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 and from 3.30 p.m. to 19.30 p.m.; in the larger cities, some pharmacies are open 24 hours. For emergencies during the night, or when the pharmacies are normally closed, a number of them remain open, on a rotational basis. A calendar listing the nearest one open can be found on the doors of all local pharmacies.

How does the electrical system work in Italy? In Italy, the electrical current is 220 volts AC (50 Hz). Electrical sockets comply with European regulations. In most hotels you will find adaptors for different types of plugs.

Is tap water drinkable in Italy? The supply of drinking water is guaranteed throughout Italy. The water from taps and fountains is checked regularly, and is perfectly safe to drink, unless there is a notice indicating otherwise.

What sizes are used in Italy? Italian sizes are in centimetres, unlike US sizes, for example, which are in inches. Women's clothing sizes

generally range from about 38 to 56, men's sizes from about 42 to 60. Adult shoe sizes generally go from about 35 to 46. Sizes and measures can be converted by visiting one of the various internet sites that offer conversion tables.

National public holidays There are 12 national holidays on the Italian calendar:

- 1 January - New Year's Day
- 6 January - Epiphany,
- Easter Sunday (date varies from year to year)
- Easter Monday (the day after Easter Sunday)
- 25 April - Anniversary of Liberation
- 1 May - Labour Day
- 2 June - Republic Day
- 15 August - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Ferragosto)
- 1 November - All Saints Day
- 8 December - Immaculate Conception
- 25 December - Christmas Day
- 26 December - Boxing Day

The local patron saint's day is generally a local public holiday: offices are closed and a range of events and markets are held.

The climate in Italy

The climate varies considerably from the north to the south of Italy. In the north of the country - the area between the Alps and the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines - the climate is harsh, with very cold winters and very hot, particularly humid summers. In central Italy, the climate is milder, with a smaller difference in temperature between summer and winter and a shorter and less intense cold season than in the north; summers are longer, but the sultriness of the northern cities is mitigated by the sea. In southern Italy and the islands winters are never particularly harsh, and spring and autumn temperatures are similar to those reached in the summer in other areas of Italy.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

Italy counts **54 UNESCO World Heritage Sites** within its borders, the most of any country on the World Heritage List. Italy's World Heritage Sites are well-known. The Dolomites; The City of Verona; Ferrara and the Po River Delta; the Historic centres of San Gimignano, Florence and Rome; Hadrian's Villa and the Villa D'Este at Tivoli; the archaeological area of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata; the Sassi (rupestrian architecture and churches) of Matera; the Amalfi Coast and the Aeolian Islands are just some among many others. All 54 sites have been, at one time or another, travel destinations for those seeking out history, art and culture in the Bel Paese.



MADE IN ITALY

Made in Italy is an expression that recalls the image of high-quality Italian products throughout the world.

The reason behind this expression's fame? Made in Italy is, by now, an authentic brand symbolising the excellence of Italian craftsmanship and manufacturing. From footwear to pret-a-porter, from bicycles to automobiles and, undoubtedly, excellent enogastronomic traditions, Italian products bearing the prestigious Made in Italy title are highly-coveted the world over - for their integrity and durability, design originality and creativity, and for their distinct flavors.

Numerous encounters, fairs, and showrooms promote Made in Italy year-round, familiarising entities and the public with the elevated taste, quality, and sophisticated research and traditions of its products. Such initiatives frequently unite the character of the trade show with the cultural event, creating occasions to jump into the immense history and art of the Bel Paese.

Many a tourist visits the Peninsula exclusively to experience the world of Made in Italy: the exploration of the places where culture, industry, history, art and good taste result in unique and beloved cuisines and articles of design, and the exploration of the traditions and methods that lead to their creation. And of course, hardly anyone can return home without taking with them at least one memento to remind them of their exciting discovery of Made in Italy.

OPERA THEATRES

Boasting a wealth of historic, majestic opera houses, Italy is not only the birthplace of the opera, but is still one of the best places in the world to see performances of this art form. Even though opera was originally for the elites it has eventually found its way to the masses and it is now thought of as a cultural experience and an excellent representation of the arts. Even if you don't have the opportunity to witness an aria or two in these opera houses, the architecture and history will make these theaters a worthwhile visit while in Italy.

Rome - Teatro dell'Opera di Roma

Milan - Teatro La Scala

Venice - Teatro La Fenice

Naples - Teatro San Carlo

Palermo - Teatro Massimo

Turin - Teatro Regio

Florence - Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino

Verona - Arena



ACCOMMODATION

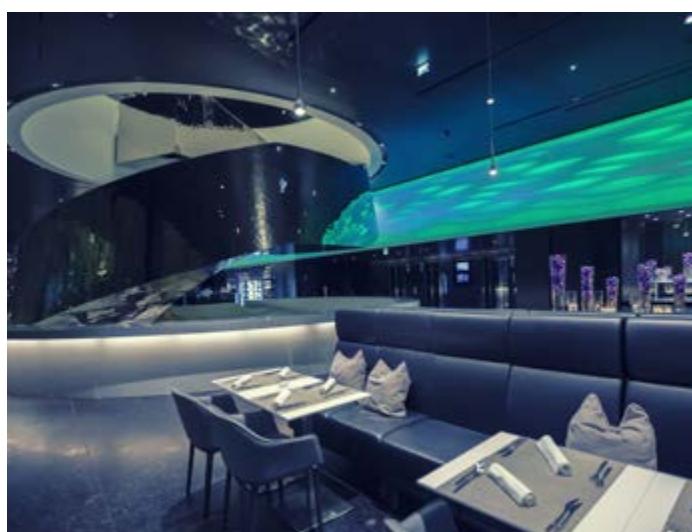
Different types of accommodation available in the region



Central and Eastern Europe offers all types of accommodation including a range of hotels, some boutique in historic buildings, some very modern, chateaus, farms, mountain and tree huts, glamping & countryside houses with private swimming pools, beach resorts, kite & windsurfing resorts, ski resorts, luxury yacht and private bungalows located on water.

Hotels

A wide range of international, European and local brand of hotels are available all over Central & Eastern Europe; From International hotel chains, ideal for family travel, luxury boutique properties for an uninterrupted romantic getaway, congress hotels dedicated to catering of events and conferences, comfortable hostels for budget travel, spa resorts for rejuvenation and the list goes on.



Castles & Chateaus

There are thousands of castles and chateaus situated all over Central & Eastern Europe. If you have always desired the luxurious life of kings and queens without breaking the bank, then Central & Eastern Europe is the ideal choice. One can choose from a charming and quaint chateau all the way to a grand 5-star castle in all its glory and pageantry. Most of these properties also offer full conferencing facilities and modern high-tech amenities ideal for events and celebrations.

Popular spots include Warsaw's The Royal Castle. It's one of the world's largest castles and definitely worth a tick on your palace bucket list, as is the Wilanów Palace and The Palace on the Water. Most beautiful in Poland are Malbork Castle (UNESCO, considered the world's largest brick building), Moszna, Pieskowa Skala (near Krakow); Kliczkow (near Wroclaw with famous Hotel) & Książ.



Other countries such as Czech Republic and Slovakia offer a wide variety of Chateau accommodations. Castles and Chateaus can be used as venues for events, accommodation or simply as a point to stop, explore the history and take a selfie.

Accommodation in Mountain Huts & Chalets

If you are looking to recharge your batteries breathing in the pure mountain air, enjoying freshly baked bread, touring Central Europe's highest brewery and spending relaxing time in the beer spa then the Alps and mountains of Central & Eastern Europe should be your only choice. The highest mountain range of Central Europe offers a unique accommodation experience in rustic and intimate mountain huts, cottages and chalets which are comfortable and enjoyable. One can also enjoy hiking, cycling and golf in summer and skiing in winter.

An idea for your stay is a trullo in Puglia Trulli which are conical roofed huts exclusive to the Puglia region in southern Italy. These charming structures were mostly built in the 19th century as storehouses and small dwellings for the rural population. Usually built from local



limestone, and then closed with outer stones, trulli's distinctive coned roofs are sometimes painted with different religious symbols to help protect the occupants. Spending the night in a trullo is a unique way to experience the sun-drenched heel of Italy.

You can also recharge your batteries at the foot of Czech Republic's highest mountain peak Snezka and the highest situated brewery. Rest in the National Park enjoying the untouched nature and the beer crafting skills of the Czechs.

Glamping & Countryside

Central & Eastern Europe's style of glamping gets you close to nature and enables you to escape the hassle of having to find a space, spending time pitching a tent, whilst still enjoying the delights of the great outdoors. There are basically four types of accommodation; comfortable bungalows in African style, Finnish cottages and Stulps, tepee and fully equipped mobile homes.

Some regions also offer floating huts on the river, motor boats with bedrooms for rent – some without special permits for the tenant. You can sleep on the top of the mountain or 135 metres underground in a SPA Hotel.

Rural tourism is becoming increasingly popular, especially for families with children. Accommodation is often combined with other on-site activities, such as an equestrian park, livestock breeding, farming and handicraft workshops. The host generally organises various programmes and events relating to Hungarian traditions.

Bed and Breakfast (Pension)

Guest accommodation in family-run bed and breakfasts (B&B) are available throughout the region, especially in the countryside and smaller towns. As these businesses are generally run by families, the atmosphere is often more personal and direct between owner and guest, and the host may therefore be more open to individual requirements. Such options are ideal for families.

Youth Hostels

Youth hostels can be found in larger cities and tourist areas. In general, they provide simple, budget accommodation, usually in shared rooms, although some individual rooms are available. Kitchen facilities are generally provided.



ACTIVITIES

Different types of activities available in the region



There are different types of activities available in the region. Apart from easy and safe exploring cities and villages of Central & Eastern Europe, multiple sport activities like cycling, hiking, running, rafting, kayaking can be enjoyed.

Museums

The rich artistic heritage of Central & Eastern Europe can be admired in many museums and galleries all over the region. Each of the country's capital has a National Museum which presents the history of the country. Once you visit several of them, you get to understand the complex and intense connection between the countries.

Hiking

Tap into the soul of the Alps by hiking through its picturesque natural backdrop: Italy & Austria are heaven of sorts for outdoor fans. The Alpine scenery is nothing short of stunning and there are more hiking opportunities than you can shake a stick at. Hiking is also deeply rooted in life and one of the most authentic ways to see the countries and meet the locals.



Culture exploring

In each of the destinations you can visit folklore restaurants, which not only serve fantastic traditional cuisine, but also offer a folklore program in which you participate. If not folklore, visit some of the famous sights where the classical giants such as Mozart, Strauss, Beethoven, Dvorak and others have performed. Dive into the world of classical music not only by listening to one of several performances, but walk the streets where the composers have lived and composed.

Mozart and Strauss concerts in the most beautiful historical Viennese palaces: traditional classical concerts with the world-famous music of W. A. Mozart and Johann Strauss. Renowned opera singers and a classical ballet duo will enchant you in the Rosenkavalier Hall of this historic baroque palace.

Overdose on Renaissance Art As the cradle of the Renaissance, Florence is packed with artistic masterpieces to admire. From Michelangelo's David to Botticelli's Birth of Venus and Brunelleschi's dome atop the Duomo, every corner of the city is rich with art and architecture. Florence's store of cultural wealth is so overwhelming, there have even been cases of visitors to the city suffering dizziness. Stendhal Syndrome, also known as Florence Syndrome, can cause those with a deep emotional connection with the artworks to find themselves overcome with emotion and fall ill.

Pilgrimage tours

Visit churches and cathedrals, monastery complexes, pilgrimage churches, chapels and peaceful places of contemplation.

Church monuments provide a unique testament to spiritual and cultural wealth. They have existed for centuries, yet despite this these places are alive, attracting visitors with their ancient legends and miracles, dazzling architecture and spiritual legacy. Set out in the footsteps of the pilgrims of time gone by

Visit Wadowice - small city around 30 miles southwest from Kraków, got international recognition as the **birthplace of Pope John Paul II**.

Sister Faustina's sights: Divine Mercy Sanctuary Kraków, Chapel of the miraculous image of the Merciful Jesus and the tomb of St. Faustina. Czestochowa – **Jasna Gora Monastery with Black Madonna Miraculous Painting**. Kalwaria Zebrzydowska (UNESCO sight) located 39 km (0:40h) from Kraków, it is a cultural landscape of great beauty and spiritual quality. Its natural setting, in which a linked series of symbolic places of worship relating to the Passion of Jesus Christ and the Life of the Virgin Mary was laid out at the beginning of the 17th century, has remained virtually unchanged. It is till today a place of pilgrimage with many chapels. Have you ever heard about Licheń? **The Basilica of Our Lady of Licheń** is one of the tallest and largest churches in the world.

Go to mass at one of the world's oldest churches. Considering it's almost 2,000 years old, the Pantheon in Rome is in excellent shape. Although it was originally built as a temple for the gods (the names derive from the Ancient Greek Pantheon, meaning 'all the gods'), the building is still in constant use as a Catholic church. Seeing mass in this incredibly well-preserved site or marveling at the concrete dome (the world's largest) and its oculus is a spiritual experience that can't be matched.

Adventure & Sports

Golf activities are spread throughout the region. Golf courses for complete beginners, for which we organize a Golf Academy, to golf



courses for professionals, the needs of various range of golfers are satisfied.

Partying on the Pistes

From famously big winter opening celebrations to legendary après-ski. If partying and the pistes go hand in hand for you, then Austria is where you will find the ultimate blend. But not just party animals are served well here, as there is a whole range of exclusive bars, rustic mountain huts and gourmet restaurants waiting to be discovered.

Ice Palaces: Located roughly an hour's drive south of Salzburg's city centre, the Eisriesenwelt underground formations are a fine example of nature producing art. The labyrinth, which stretches across a staggering 42km (26.1 miles), is the largest of its kind and contains an awe-inspiring display of unique structures formed of ice and limestone. Resembling a palace fit for a snow queen, don't miss its beguiling appearance on a trip to Austria. Open between May and October, you must book a guided tour to enter the caves. The caves near Obertraun, Upper Austria are also striking.

Or stop in Dobrinska Ice Cave, It has several magnificent parts – halls, corridors and domes. Thanks to the icy air, which lies down deep, the cave is full of fantastic ice formations and glaciers that sometimes fill it up to the ceiling. The thickness of the ice filling in the Great Hall is as much as 26.5 meters! The 1 km long ascent route to the cave's entrance is lined with educational boards and takes about 25 min. Du-

ration of the visit is half an hour and 515 m. Air temperature drops to -3°C, make sure to wear good warm clothes.

The Hungarian Formula 1 Grand Prix

It is organized in July or August every year at Hungaroring, Mogyoród

Sziget Festival

Sziget is one of the largest music and cultural festivals in Europe. It is held every August in northern Budapest on Óbudai-sziget. More than 1000 performances take place each year.

Attend a masked ball at Carnevale di Venezia. Venice Carnival may originate as a celebration of a 12th-century military victory, but these days it's all about the parades and parties. The most exclusive party is Il Ballo del Doge, the Doge's Ball, which is held every year at Palazzo Pisani Moretta. Every year this historic palazzo hosts the festival's most lavish and luxurious masquerade ball, with around 400 VIP guests in attendance.

Spa

You can find modern Spa Hotels in each part of Central & Eastern Europe most known however are the SPA resorts in Budapest. Budapest holds the title "City of Spas" since the year 1934, as it has more thermal and medicinal water springs than any other capital city in the world. There are 118 springs in Budapest, providing over 70 million liters of



thermal water a day. The temperature of the waters is between 21 and 78 Celsius.

Budapest's thermal waters were enjoyed by the Romans as early as the 2nd century, but it was only during the Turkish occupation of Hungary in the 16th century that the bath culture really started flourishing.

Beer Spa

Czechs are no doubt beer experts as they have discovered that the 'amber nectar' has healing properties too. The country is dotted with relaxing and healing beer spas be it in the capital Prague or the spa capital of Europe, Karlovy Vary or in the mountains of Krkonose, the options are numerous.

Shopping

Numerous shopping malls and outlets await you in every city all over the region. A stop in Parndorf in Austria or any of the outlet designer Shops in Italy is a must.

The opening hours vary from country to country; however, most of them are open from Monday to Friday, from morning until late afternoon, and on Saturdays. It's important to plan time for shopping in advance, in order to be sure that the shops are open. Shopping streets



and pedestrian zones offering luxury goods and good values – at jeweler's shops as well as antique stores, art stores, and fashion designer boutiques. Between flagship stores and shopping palaces, you can discover many things.

Christmas Markets

Christmas markets are a key ingredient of the festive magic in Central & Eastern Europe. The capital cities usually have the most impressive ones. They light up the city, bringing locals and tourists together in a true 'winter wonderland' setting.

The Christmas markets consist of brightly decorated wooden huts stocked with local handicrafts and traditional Christmas treats.

Among the items on offer, visitors can buy ceramics, jewellery, embroidered lace, wooden toys, scented candles, Christmas tree ornaments, hats and gloves, and puppets and dolls dressed in traditional costumes. These markets are hence the perfect place to pick up souvenirs.

But the markets are about much more than shopping. There are all kinds of local food and drink to sample too, much of it prepared at the stalls in front of you.

Popular food on offer includes large hams roasted on spits; 'little' unhealthy but wonderfully tasty barbecue sausages; Hungarian flatbread topped with garlic, cheese and ketchup; pancakes; and a variety



of sweets and cakes, such as spicy gingerbread and a hot sugar coated pastry.

Hot drinks like honey wine, mulled wine, hot chocolate, or grog - a mixture of rum, water, lemon and sugar - will surely warm you up in the chilly European winter.

Other attractions include events such as animal stables, where children can stroke sheep, goats and even a donkey.

Various open air events are organized and are usually free for all visitors.

Unique Experiences & Tours

Visit picturesque lake towns:

Hallstatt: Nestled between the edge of Hallstätter See and the towering Dachstein mountains, Austria's oldest and possibly most photographed village is something like a mirage in the Salzkammergut Lake Region. Hallstatt's picturesque architecture is one of the major reasons visitors are attracted to the village. When in Hallstatt, go and explore its main streets and side streets. Walking around the downtown area really is an attraction on its own. You'll be in constant awe of the charming colourful and wooden homes.



SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL WORLDS: Swarovski Crystal Worlds was opened in 1995 to mark the centennial anniversary of the company's founding. Multimedia artist André Heller designed a unique and magical place. This beloved attraction has brought moments of wonder to over fourteen million visitors from all around the world. Visitors are surprised, touched, and perhaps even transformed by crystal in all its facets.



Visit the brewery of the first "blond lager" beer

The world can thank Czech Republic for one of its greatest inventions – BLOND LAGER BEER. Home to some of the best beer brands in the world like Pilsner Urquell, Budweiser Budvar and Staropramen, the country is a must visit for beer drinkers. Beer lovers can embark upon a 'pilgrimage' to visit the city of Pilsen, home to the famous beer born more than 175 years ago and Ceske Budejovice to uncover the secret behind the delicious taste of the famous Budweiser Budvar lager. Hence, it should not come as a surprise that the Czechs are the highest consumers of beer in the world.

Taking a tram ride through the city with "beer" tram

Czechs love for beer and their ode to their much-loved drink can be experienced in more ways than one can imagine. One such experience

is the 'beer' tram ride. A tram carriage modelled like a modern bar, serving fantastic craft beer as you ride through the city.

Wiener Walzer and Ball Season

Nowhere are Balls so romantically formal as in Vienna. This tradition is intoxicating to locals and visitors for far more than a single night.

Discover the performances of the Spanish Riding School: The world-famous performances by the Lipizzans – the Ballet of the White Stallions – take place in the unique, baroque Winter Riding School at Hofburg Palace, built under Charles VI. These performances are the result of years of training for the rider and their Lipizzans. This atmosphere and the accompanying classical Viennese music makes the wonderful presentation by the rider and their Lipizzans even more enjoyable.



Mozart and Strauss concerts in the most beautiful historical Viennese palaces: traditional classical concerts with the world-famous music of W. A. Mozart and Johann Strauss. Renowned opera singers and a classical ballet duo will enchant you in the Rosenkavalier Hall of this historic baroque palace.

Maranello and the Italy's Motor Valley: Ferrari, Lamborghini, Pagani

There are few sports cars as iconic as Ferrari, and as the vehicle's official home, the small town of Maranello is a place of pilgrimage for Formula One fans. Visit the Ferrari Museum in Maranello, the brand new Pagani Factory Museum and the new Lamborghini Museum in Sant'Agata Bolognese with their historical collections.

The Ferrari museum traces the heritage of the world's premier marque. Multimedia displays help explain the exhibits, including race trophies, and cars that include the single-seater that won Ferrari its first world championship in 1951, and the all-conquering F1 car driven by Michael Schumacher.

The Lamborghini Museum reviews all the important milestones reached by the House of the Raging Bull with a foray into the past that has a strong emotional impact on fans of luxury super sports cars. The Murciélagos was the first masterpiece displayed in this in-

spiring location and at its side there is the Miura S, the 350 GT, the Countach S, the Jalpa, the Espada, the Sesto Elemento, the Reventón and the other exclusive supercars that have turned the Raging Bull into a legend.

The brand new museum Pagani Automobili. Pagani produces exclusive racing and luxury sports cars such as Zonda and Huayra, which is the fastest car in the world and it is completely handmade. You will be impressed, not only by the sheer beauty of the cars, but most of all by the modest and peaceful atmosphere in the factory.

Anyway there's no better way to experience the power of a Ferrari, a Lamborghini or a Huayra than getting behind the wheel for a test drive. Get your adrenaline pumping as you zip around the country lanes of Emilia-Romagna, or put your foot down and pick up some speed as you drive on a real racetrack under the supervision of an expert driving instructor.

A full day on the Dolomite Mountains with a visit of Luxottica Factory

Take a breath of clean air and enjoy the natural landscapes of the Dolomiti, the mountain range located in Northern Veneto on the border with Austria.

Belluno, is located down the river Piave and is surrounded by the Regional Park of the Belluno Dolomites, declared as a Unesco World Heritage site in 2009.

We will head towards the northern basin of the Piave and drive through long valleys flanked by white stone hills covered with pine trees and low bushes.

Don't miss the chance to treat yourself at the nice coffee house on the ground floor, while the upper floors host the Archeological Museum, the Archive of State and the Historical Library with some precious records.

As we continue our trip, we go through Tai di Cadore, a resort town with an unexpected Museum of the spectacles, due to the local production of sunglasses and glass lenses since the 1870's.

Luxottica Group SpA engages in the design, manufacture, and distribution of fashion, luxury, sport, and performance eyewear. It operates through the Manufacturing and Wholesale Distribution and Retail Distribution business segments. After the visit of the museum and the factory, we will proceed to Cortina d'Ampezzo, one of the most celebrated summer and winter resorts in Italy. On the way from Tai to Cortina we enjoy the great extent of woods and the majestic volume of Mount Pelmo. Cortina d'Ampezzo is surrounded by spectacular peaks of over 10.000 feet high.

The so-called "Queen of the Dolomites" has been the cornerstone of the tourist industry in northern Veneto since mid 19th century, renowned for the international clientele who used to stay in the "Grand Hotels".

From Cortina our day on the Dolomite Mountains proceeds northeast towards the Cristallo range, including high peaks of 11.000 feet high, and the large Valfonda glacier. Finally we reach Misurina, renowned for its lake and the magnificent Tre Cime di Lavaredo mountains, the unforgettable three high peaks.

CUISINE



The countries of Central and Eastern European region share strong bonds when it comes to food. Especially the influence of the Austria-Hungary Empire is obvious in the countries which were under their rule. The most popular dishes in these countries are if not same, similar but still have their own unique version.

Polish cuisine is not simply pierogi and sausage – though they play their role and come in many shapes and flavors. Essential to try and buy only in Poland are: OSCYPEK – polish sheep cheese, usually made from cow or goat milk in Tatra Mountains. Other popular local specials are Koryciński & Bunc cheese, Bryndza - similar to feta cheese, long aged sausages (kiełbasa, kabanosy), for example from Tarczynski &



don't forget to try bagel roll from Kazimierz. E. Wedel's and Wawel's chocolate are the best in Poland. We can offer all over Poland, Cooking Academy, or Chocolate Workshops.

Czech cuisine is influenced by bordering countries but yet has retained its own flavor. Your holiday in Czech Republic is incomplete without trying the famous Queen of Czech cuisine – Svíčková na Smetaně – beef sirloin in cream sauce. Another famous dish in the entire central European region is the Goulash, most commonly made with beef, but in Czech Republic one can find it with other meats and even a refreshing vegetarian version. A popular vegetarian dish in Czech Republic is the fried cheese, a staple in all kinds of eateries be it pubs, bars, restaurants or bistros. Slices of cheese, rolled in bread crumbs, deep fried and served with tartar sauce and potatoes is a comfort food the Czechs swear by. Other delicious Czech goodies are pickled sausage best enjoyed with famous Czech beer, fruit dumplings (ovoce knedliky), Roast duck (pecena kachna), Opened Faced Sandwiches (chlebicky) and Pork knuckle (veprove koleno).



Your holiday in Slovak Republic is incomplete without trying the famous – Bryndzové Halušky – sheep cheese gnocchi with pork crackling fat. Similar to Czech cousin, a popular vegetarian dish in Slovakia is the “Výprážaný syr” - fried cheese, slices of cheese, rolled in bread crumbs, deep fried and served with tartar sauce and potatoes. Famous desserts are “štrúdľa” - strudel, “palacinky” - pancakes and “šúľance” with nuts or poppy seeds. Also Czech, Hungarian and Vienna specialties like Sviečková na Smotane – beef sirloin in cream sauce, Goulash - most commonly made with beef, or venison meat - “Výprážaný rezeň” - Vienna Schnitzel and Pork knuckle (bravčové koleno).



For a thousand years or so, Hungary's food, like its culture, has had an intriguing double identity, cleverly blending eastern mystique with the traditions of the west. Recipes were adapted to suit their own tastes, which also gave the dishes a national flavour. Authentic Hungarian dishes are definitely not for people on a diet. You may find the dishes a bit too heavy and fatty; however, their rich flavour, aroma and texture compensate you for the slightly excessive calorie intake. But don't think that everything is soaking in pork fat and paprika. These



ingredients are essential for authentic Hungarian dishes, but properly portioning them and using modern cooking methods we can make healthy as well as delicious dishes. The ingredients they cook with are simple. The fertile Hungarian plain and the favourable climate provides excellent conditions for growing tasty vegetables, fruits, and to raise domestic animals whose meat is savoury.

Central and Eastern Europe also happens to be an ideal destination to enjoy world-cuisine at affordable prices. All major cities and tourist destinations offer various International cuisines including Italian, French, Spanish, Mexican, Indian, Pan-Asian and so on. There is also a growing culture of veganism and vegetarianism which has led to growth spurt of numerous such restaurants and cafes. In summary, Central and Eastern caters to any kind of dietary preferences.



Campania, Alba truffles, and cured meats are just some of the symbols that make Italy the land of good food. And how could anyone forget pasta and pizza, universal synonyms for Italy?

Italy's wines, those noble ambassadors of Italian excellence throughout the world, must not be neglected. The pleasure of tasting a fine wine in its native environment is unparalleled - a glass of Chianti or Brunello di Montalcino in Tuscany, of Barbera or Barolo from Piedmont, of Prosecco di Valdobbiadene in Veneto, of Lambrusco from Emilia Romagna, or the Sicilian wines or the white wines in Friuli and Trentino-Alto Adige, or the great reds of the Valtellina, just to give a few examples. Italy is a world of tastes that tempt the palate, eyes, and heart!

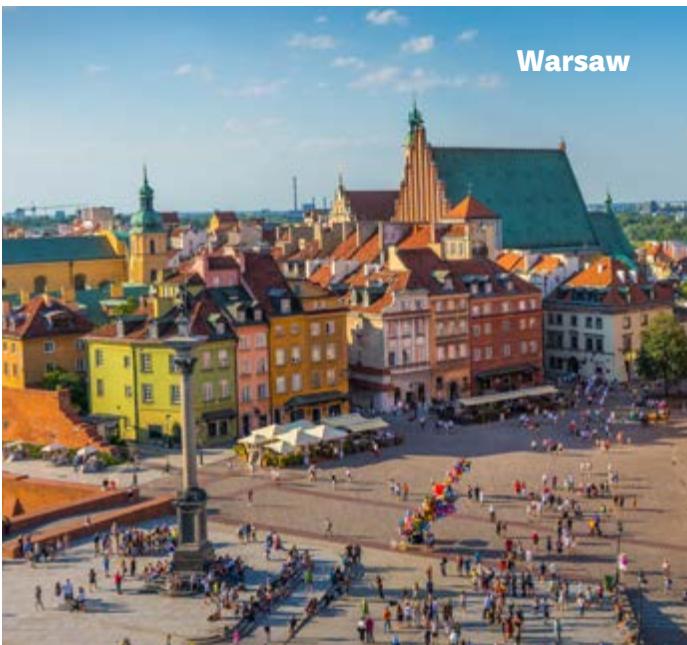


Italy has always been a synonym for "good food," offering an unmistakable explosion of flavors, scents, and aromas. Aside from having one of the most famous cuisines in the world, it also proposes an immense variety of different regional dishes and recipes.

Visitors cannot miss the culinary and wine itineraries - journeys through Italy's enogastronomic culture, in search of ancient recipes, genuine products, and simple food inspired by classic Italian cooking and innovative creations. World-renowned products such as Parmigiano Reggiano (Parmesan) cheese, Parma and San Daniele ham, Modena balsamic vinegar, Genoa's pesto, buffalo mozzarella from

POLAND

07 NIGHTS / 08 DAYS



DAY 1: WELCOME TO WARSAW

- Upon arrival, enjoy a private transfer to your hotel and check in. Hotel Leonardo Royal 4* or similar

DAY 2: WARSAW: SIGHTSEEING

- Discover Warsaw through a half day city tour. Admire famous monuments along the Royal Route, Old Town and Lazienki Park or walk near the river boulevards. In the afternoon, take your own way to the train station for a 3hrs train to Gdansk, check in to Focus Premium Old Town 4* or similar Hotel in Gdansk.

DAY 3. GDANSK: SIGHTSEEING

- Explore Gdansk Old Town on your own, and then cafés & Restaurants near the Motlawa River. Afternoon to see Sopot or one of the most popular museums in Gdansk – Solidarity museum or the World War II museum.

DAY 4 TO KRAKOW

- Have a leisurely morning in the Old Town of Gdansk or board to one of the ships in the Old Town for a trip on the Baltic Sea. Afternoon train to Krakow & check in at the Hotel Metropolis Design 4* or similar. Eat at the train's restaurant or enjoy dinner in the Old Town of Krakow – maybe one of the rooftop restaurants overlooking Wawel Castle and Vistula river?

DAY 5: KRAKOW – CITY TOUR & WIELICZKA SALT MINE

- You will have a chance to see Old Town (UNESCO) with old Jewish district of Kazimierz, Wawel Hill with its impressive arched Renaissance courtyard and the famous Gothic cathedral, the oldest university college - the Collegium Maius, with a beautiful Gothic courtyard, to finish the tour in the heart of Kraków - the Main Market. A tour is also possible by bike!

DAY 6: KRAKOW – AUSCHWITZ & BIRKENAU

- In the morning meet your guide and take a coach tour where you will learn about Auschwitz- Bikenau Nazi concentration camps.
- Optional folklore dinner / live concert or Divine Mercy Sanctuary of Sister's Faustina in the afternoon.

DAY 7: BACK TO WARSAW, SHOPPING

- Leisurely morning in Krakow, afternoon train to Warsaw. Make your own way & check in. Hotel Leonardo Royal 4* or similar

DAY 8: DEPARTURE

- Last minute shopping in Zlote Tarasy central shopping mall & departure transfer to the Airport

PRAGUE, KRAKOW, WARSAW

09 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS

Prague



Krakow



Warsaw





DAY 01: ARRIVE PRAGUE

- Arrive in Prague followed by Meet & Greet by our representative
- Arrive at the Hotel followed by Check-in
- Evening at your own leisure or Optional Activity
- Crystal Dinner Cruise on the River Vltava
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 02: PRAGUE

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Proceed for Prague Sightseeing tour (regular and private available): A guided walk through the Prague Castle complex to discover the major sights within. Admire the grandeur of Saint Vitus Cathedral, the architecture of the Old Royal Palace, and enjoy stunning views over the whole of Prague. From Prague Castle we head for the river, for a stroll across the Charles Bridge, and for more wonderful views of the city. We then continue our Prague tour with a walk through the Jewish Quarter, Wenceslas Square at its heart, Lesser Town (Mala Strana) the historic Astronomical Clock and the Old Town Square.
- Afternoon at your own leisure
- Optional Activities
 - Visit to Staropramen Brewery museum, Beer Tapping school and dinner
 - Original Medieval Dinner and Folklore show
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 03: PRAGUE

- Breakfast at hotel
- Day at your own leisure
- Optional Sightseeing tour
 - Full day tour of Cesky Krumlov (regular and private available) – The fairy tale town of Cesky Krumlov is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in South Bohemian region and home to one of the largest castle complexes in Central Europe. Explore one of the most beautiful towns of Europe, the magnificent Renaissance castle, its stunning gardens, the church of St. Vitus and its medieval cobbled streets.
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 04: PRAGUE-KRAKOW

- Breakfast at the hotel. Check out of the hotel. Extras to be settled directly. Day at your own leisure
- Overnight train transfer from Prague to Krakow

DAY 05: KRAKOW

- Arrive in Krakow followed by breakfast in the hotel
- Later check-in to the hotel
- Freshen up proceed for the city sightseeing tour of Krakow (regular and private options available). You will have a chance to see Old Town (UNESCO) with old Jewish district of Kazimierz, Wawel Hill with its impressive arcaded Renaissance courtyard and the famous gothic cathedral, the oldest university college – the Collegium Maius, with a beautiful Gothic courtyard, to finish the tour in the heart of Krakow – the Main Market. Tour is also possible on bike
- Evening at your own leisure or Optional activities

Jewish style dinner
Krakow food tour

- Overnight at the hotel

DAY 06: KRAKOW

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Proceed to tour of Auschwitz & Birkenau. On this tour you will learn about the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps.
- Return to Krakow
- Evening at your own leisure or optional activities
 - Folklore dinner
 - Live concert

DAY 07: KRAKOW

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Proceed to Wieliczka Salt Mine tour –On this tour you will see the UNESCO listed Wieliczka Salt Mine – kilometres of chambers and chapels hidden 135 metres underground and carved in salt including crystal salt chandeliers. Try the local underground buffet.
- Evening at your own leisure or optional activities
 - Camerl Orchestra concert
 - Chopin music piano concert
- Overnight at the hotel

DAY 08: KRAKOW-WARSAW

- Breakfast at the hotel followed by check out, extras to be settled directly.
- Proceed to Warsaw by train. Arrive in Warsaw followed by check in to the hotel. Evening at your own leisure.
- Overnight at the hotel

DAY 09: WARSAW

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Proceed to the city tour of Warsaw (regular and private options available) – Admire famous monuments along the Royal Route, Old Town and Lazienki Park or walk near the river boulevards
- Evening at your own leisure or optional activity
 - Make your own pierogi and eat dinner after short cooking classes by the local Chef.
- Overnight at the hotel

DAY 10: WARSAW

- Breakfast at the hotel, check out, extras to be settled directly. Transfer to the airport for departure flight.

PRAGUE, VIENNA, BUDAPEST

09 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS

Prague



Vienna



Budapest



DAY 01: ARRIVE PRAGUE

- Arrive in Prague followed by Meet & Greet by our representative
- Arrive at the Hotel followed by Check-in
- Evening at your own leisure
- Optional Sightseeing
 - Crystal Dinner Cruise on the River Vltava
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 02: PRAGUE

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Proceed for Prague Sightseeing tour (regular and private available): A guided walk through the Prague Castle complex to discover the major sights within. Admire the grandeur of Saint Vitus Cathedral, the architecture of the Old Royal Palace, and enjoy stunning views over the whole of Prague. From Prague

Castle we head for the river, for a stroll across the Charles Bridge, and for more wonderful views of the city. We then continue our Prague tour with a walk through the Jewish Quarter, Wenceslas Square at its heart, Lesser Town (Mala Strana) the historic Astronomical Clock and the Old Town Square.

- Afternoon at your own leisure
- Optional Activities
 - Visit to Staropramen Brewery museum, Beer Tapping school and dinner
 - Original Medieval Dinner and Folklore show
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 03: PRAGUE

- Breakfast at hotel
- Day at your own leisure
- Optional Sightseeing tour
 - Full day tour of Cesky Krumlov (regular and private available) – The fairy tale town of Cesky Krumlov is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in South Bohemian region and home to one of the largest castle complexes in Central Europe. Explore one of the most beautiful towns of Europe, the magnificent Renaissance castle, its stunning gardens, the church of St. Vitus and its medieval times' cobbled streets.
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 04: PRAGUE-VIENNA

- After breakfast, check-out of the hotel, settle extras directly. Proceed to Vienna.
- Arrive in Vienna, check-in to the hotel. Evening at your own leisure or optional activity
 - Mozart and Strauss Concert in the evening

DAY 05: VIENNA

- After breakfast proceed for the Vienna city tour (regular and private available) – The tour gives you a thorough overview of Vienna's most significant historical sights and focuses on the famous Schonbrunn Palace. You'll also see the Museum of Applied Arts, the State Opera House, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of Natural History. The Hofburg is another highlight, the famous residence of Empress Elizabeth. Plus, you'll see a lot of other fine buildings, including the Parliament, City Hall, the Burgtheater, the University and the Votive Church, Maria Theresa, your tour ends by the SüdtirolerPlatz.
- Evening at your own leisure.
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 06: KRAKOW

- Breakfast at the hotel. Day at your own leisure
- Optional sightseeing:
 - Option 1: Day trip to Hallstatt (regular and private available)- Hallstatt is noted as one of the most beautiful Lake towns in the world. During the tour visit the old town with 19th century Evangelical Church and Market Square. The attraction not to miss here is the Skywalk located 350m above Hallstatt for stunning views of the region and the salt mines with its mining methods and subterranean lake hides the history of more than 7000 years old.
 - Option 2: Day trip to Wachau Valley (regular and private available) - A full-day excursion, from Vienna reveals the exquisite beauty of the Wachau Valley. You'll travel through gorgeous Austrian countryside. The history and legends of this lovely part of Austria come to life as you travel your way past charming old villages, steep vineyards and mysterious castles. One such castle is the well-known Durnstein, where Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned while waiting for his ransom to arrive from England. Then, you'll enjoy a boat ride down the Danube from Spitz to Melk, passing the heart of the Wachau Valley at the old wine town of Krems. To complete your superb day trip, you will visit Melk's magnificent Benedictine Abbey, a pearl of the Austrian Baroque style.
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 07: VIENNA-BUDAPEST

- After breakfast, check-out of the hotel, settle extras directly. Proceed to Budapest.
- Arrive in Budapest, followed by hotel check-in. Evening at leisure. Overnight at the hotel
- Optional activity
 - Budapest Ruin Pubs and Bars Tour
 - Budapest Danube River cruise with dinner

DAY 08: BUDAPEST

- After breakfast proceed for BUDAPEST CITY TOUR (regular and private available): The Grand City Sightseeing Tour makes the perfect introduction of the city. Your travel will take you across the Danube on the Margaret Bridge, show you the House of Parliament, the Royal Castle, the Fisherman's Bastion and much more. You will cross the Danube on the Margaret Bridge (Margaret Island) and drive to the Royal Castle on the Buda side. Here you will visit the Fisherman's Bastion (Promenade) and the Matthias Church (Interior visit). You will also climb the Gellert Hill for fantastic photo opportunities of the city before crossing Elizabeth bridge and driving by the City Park towards Heroes' square (Promenade). Passing by the Opera and St. Stephen's Basilica you then reach the city centre, where your tour ends.
- Evening at your own leisure
- Optional activity
 - Famous Gellert thermal bath and spa
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 09: BUDAPEST

- Breakfast at the hotel. Day at your own leisure.
- Optional sightseeing
 - Full day tour of the Danube Bend (regular and private available) - Before reaching Budapest the River Danube turns sharply between rocky hills providing one of the most scenic views of Hungary: the Danube Bend. The Danube Bend is surrounded by historic and picturesque cities like Visegrad, Esztergom and Szentendre. Must-visit attractions in this trip are
 - Castle of Visegrad, triangular shaped and perched on top of a 333metres hill soaring over the Danube bend
 - Esztergom Basilica is the largest church in Hungary and third biggest in the world. It is the centre of the Hungarian Roman Catholic church.
 - Szentendre, an adorable town full of art museums, galleries and churches.
- Overnight stay at the hotel

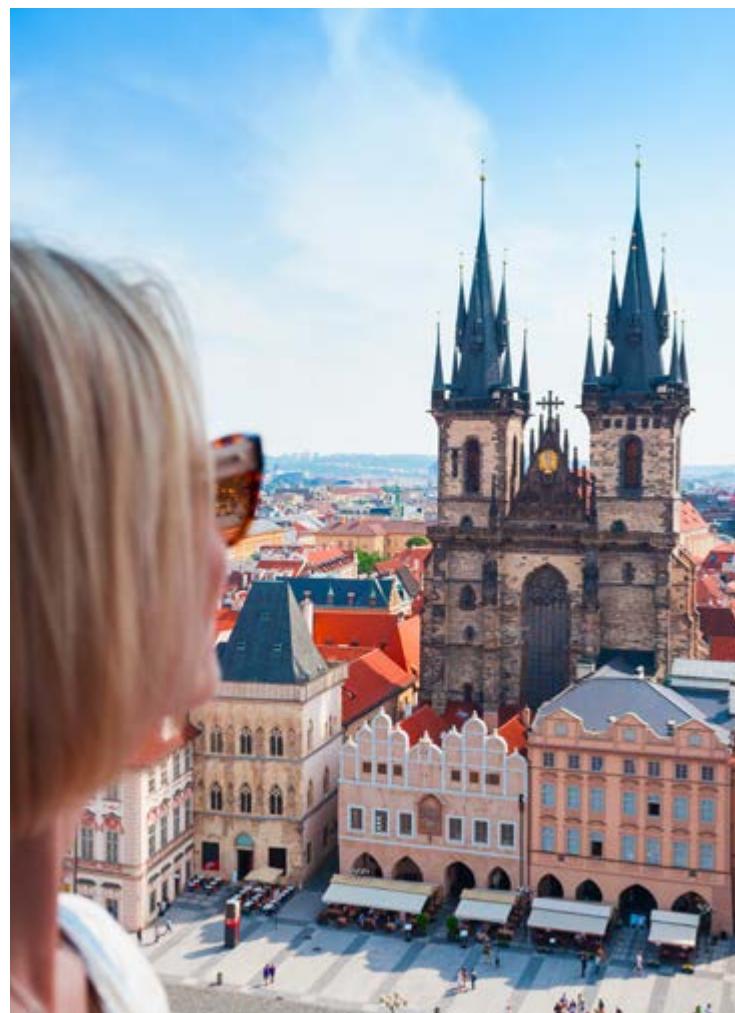
DAY 10: DEPART BUDAPEST

- Breakfast at the hotel, check out, extras to be settled directly.
- Transfer to airport for your departure flight.



PRAGUE

07 NIGHTS / 08 DAYS





DAY 01: ARRIVE PRAGUE

- Arrive in Prague followed by Meet & Greet by our representative
- Arrive at the Hotel followed by Check-in
- Evening at your own Leisure
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 02: PRAGUE

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Proceed for Prague Sightseeing tour (Hop on Hop off, regular and private options available) :
- A guided walk through the Prague Castle complex to discover the major sights within. Admire the grandeur of Saint Vitus Cathedral, the architecture of the Old Royal Palace, and enjoy stunning views over the whole of Prague. From Prague Castle we head for the river, for a stroll across the Charles Bridge, and for more wonderful views of the city. We then continue our Prague tour with a walk through the Jewish Quarter, Wenceslas Square at its heart, Lesser Town (Mala Strana) the historic Astronomical Clock and the Old Town Square.
- Afternoon and evening at your own leisure
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 03: PRAGUE

- After breakfast proceed for a private walking tour of Old Town, the heart of Prague. Witness the intriguing show of the world's oldest astronomical clock, as the start of every hour, the grand silhouette of the Tyn Cathedral, the iconic Church of St.Nicholas and the numerous cobbled streets and by lanes. Continue your tour to the Jewish Quarter, the best preserved historical Jewish monuments in all of Europe, as they survived war destruction including the second world war. There are six synagogues which together form the Jewish museum where one can also see Jewish artefacts which were transported here from other parts of Europe. Then your tour continues to New Town, a misleading name, as it was founded in 1300s by King Charles IV. The New Town is landmarked by the most popular Wenceslas Square landmarked by the stunning National Museum. The square is flanked by hotels, restaurants, cafes, pubs, bars and lots of shopping options. The other important centres of the new town are the Charles Square and Republic Square.
- Evening at your own leisure
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 04 TO DAY 7: PRAGUE

- Breakfast at the hotel, Day at your own leisure or you can choose from optional sightseeing tours and activities which we will happy to arrange for you
- Overnight at the hotel

OPTIONAL SIGHTSEEING AND ACTIVITIES

Within Prague

- Crystal Dinner Cruise on the River Vltava
- Medieval Dinner and Czech Folklore Show
- Staropramen Beer Museum and Beer Tapping School with lunch

- Vintage Cars ride
- Concerts ranging from classical, opera, ballet, International artistes, musicians and any other kind

DAY TRIPS FROM PRAGUE (regular and private options available)

Full day tour of Cesky Krumlov: The fairy tale town of Cesky Krumlov is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in South Bohemian region and home to one of the largest castle complexes in Central Europe. Explore one of the most beautiful towns of Europe, the magnificent Renaissance castle, its stunning gardens, the church of St. Vitus and its medieval cobbled streets

Full day tour of Pilsen: Pilsen is home to the world-famous beer brand – Pilsner Urquell - arguably the world's beer capital. Born more than 175 years ago this beer is sold in more than 50 countries in the world and has the highest output in the central and eastern Europe. Beer lovers consider the Brewery Museum in Pilsen almost like a "pilgrimage" Here one can experience history of Pilsen pubs, see the complete facilities of the brewery, including the laboratory and at the end you can even taste the beverage fondly called the 'liquid bread' in Czech Republic.

Full day tour of Kutna Hora and Bone Church: Visit the gruesome bone chapel of Kutná Hora and explore the historic buildings of the medieval town centre. In the tour you will visit all the main sights, including the ghoulish Sedlec Ossuary, and the Gothic masterpiece of St. Barbara's Church. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995, the town is full of remarkable late Gothic and Baroque architecture. Visit the miraculous Church of St. Barbara, the Italian Court (Royal Mint), and the unique Ossuary in Sedlec, where you will also see Bohemia's oldest Cistercian Monastery. Learn about the Hussite Wars, and explore the boom days when Kutná Hora competed with Prague economically and culturally to become the favorite residence of Bohemian kings.

Full day tour of Karlovy Vary and Moser Crystal Factory: Karlovy Vary is the best-known spa town in the Czech Republic, and its history dates to the 14th century and the reign of Charles IV. The healing powers of the local springs enticed notables such as the Russian Tsar Peter the Great and the German poet Goethe. The spa town is also known for the production of world-renowned Moser crystal, Carlsbad porcelain, and the traditional Czech herb liqueur, Becherovka. In this full-day excursion from Prague you'll enjoy an exclusive visit to the Moser crystal factory.

DAY 08: PRAGUE

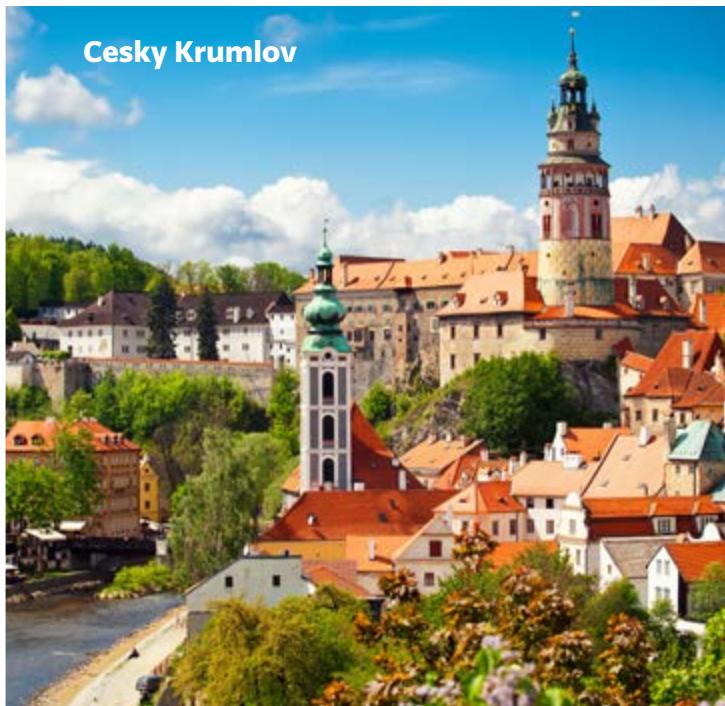
- Breakfast at the hotel, check out, extras to be settled directly.
- Transfer to airport for your departure flight.

CZECH REPUBLIC, UNESCO COUNTRY

07 NIGHTS / 08 DAYS



Kutna Hora



Cesky Krumlov



Holasovice



DAY 01 - ARRIVAL IN PRAGUE, INTRODUCTORY WALKING TOUR OF THE CITY

- Prague is one of a few destinations that are definitely worth being discovered on foot. Our walking tour will therefore highlight monuments located in the very city centre such as Wenceslas Square, actually a boulevard more than a square, guarded by National Museum building at its top, Municipal House (Obecní dům), a venue for prestigious cultural events such as the opening concert for the annual Prague Spring International Music Festival since 1946 and of course the reputed Old Town Square with its Town Hall and Astronomical Clock showing twelve apostles, Jesus Christ's disciples, when the clock strikes on the hour.
- Overnight Prague.

DAY 02 - TOUR OF PRAGUE WITH A LICENSED GUIDE

- Talking about historical or cultural significance of Prague is very similar to bringing the proverbial owls to Athens. No descriptions or observations would be enough to cover its historical, architectural, artistic and cultural value. Prague Castle, considered by the Guinness Book of Records as the largest coherent castle complex of the world was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1992, representing in fact several centuries in one location. Its neighbouring Castle Quarter (Hradčany) and Lesser Town of Prague (Malá Strana) are more than neighbours, supporting the castle's beauty and elegance but also elegance and beauty of their own.
- Overnight Prague.

DAY 03 - GUIDED COACH EXCURSION TO KUTNÁ HORA

- Kutná Hora is a picturesque medieval town included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Its wealth and glory came from silver mines that were most heavily exploited in the 14th and 15th centuries. At that time, the town's importance was almost matching the significance of Prague. The most outstanding and impressive sights are the Gothic Cathedral of St. Barbara, the patron of miners, Italian Court (Vlašský dvůr), once upon a time the Royal Mint producing the famous Prague Groschen coins, or the nearby Hrádek, the castle which has finally become the Czech Museum of Silver in the end.
- Overnight Prague.

DAY 04 - TRANSFER FROM PRAGUE TO ČESKÝ KRUMLOV WITH EN-ROUTE STOP AT HOLAŠOVICE VILLAGE

- First mentioned in the mid-13th century, Holašovice village has experienced two destructive strikes in the course of time: the plague epidemics in the 16th century and the World War II, during which it was adjoined to the German Empire. In 1946, the German inhabitants were expelled and most of the village buildings were confiscated in favour of the Czechs. However, as the post-War repairs have left the whole setting almost intact, the village could be easily recognized as an example of a preserved countryside settlement, with well-deserved inclusion in the UNESCO List of World Cultural Values in 1998.
- Overnight Český Krumlov.

DAY 05 - TOUR OF ČESKÝ KRUMLOV

- The city's historical, architectural and cultural value is yet strengthened by its picturesque location on the meander of the Vltava River flowing almost through its historical centre. The magnificent urban complex includes over 300 historical buildings while the amazing castle on a hill above comprises over 40 buildings, 5 courtyards and spacious gardens with a unique technical curiosity, open-air rotary amphitheater first opened in 1958. The town simply deserved to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1992.
- Overnight Český Krumlov.

DAY 06 - GUIDED COACH EXCURSION TO ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE OR NO UNESCO FOR TODAY

- The capital of South Bohemia was founded in 1265. It has one of the largest squares in central Europe (133m x 133 m) and a number of valuable monuments together declared a preserved city area. It was a terminus for the first ever European horse-drawn railway, built here in 1825–1832, and it is home to the world famous Budweiser Budvar beer the history of which dates back to 1895. However, the beer production in the region reaches the years of city's foundation when České Budějovice obtained also a privilege of brewing. The city centre was thoroughly reconstructed after the catastrophic floods in 2002.
- Overnight Český Krumlov.

DAY 07 - TRANSFER FROM ČESKÝ KRUMLOV VIA TELČ

- Included in UNESCO World Heritage List in 1992, Telč seems to begin its history from a foundation of small chapel in 1099. However, its rapid expansion came only after 1354, interrupted by destructive religious Hussite wars in the 15th century, from which it had a long recovery, turning from the Gothic into Renaissance architectural style in the second half of the 16th century when the town centre acquired its appearance admired until today. Suffering again under Swedish troops during the infamous Thirty Year War, it eventually enjoyed essential development in the 18th and 19th centuries, finally being connected with the surrounding world via a railway line.
- On arrival in Prague, even though really late afternoon, you may still feel free to enjoy evening explorations of this fascinating city.
- Overnight Prague.

DAY 08 - TRANSFER FROM YOUR HOTEL IN PRAGUE TO PRAGUE AIRPORT; DEPARTURE FROM PRAGUE

- Check-out of the hotel, transfer to the Prague Airport, departure.

Prague – Prague Castle & City Centre (included in UNESCO World Heritage List since 1992)

Talking about historical or cultural significance of Prague is very similar to bringing the proverbial owls to Athens. No descriptions or observations would be enough to cover its historical, architectural, artistic and cultural value. Prague Castle, considered by the Guinness Book of Records as the largest coherent castle complex of the world was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1992, representing in fact several centuries in one location. Its neighboring Castle Quarter (Hradčany) and Lesser Town of Prague (Malá Strana) are more than neighbors, supporting the castle's beauty and elegance but also having elegance and beauty of their own.

Kutná Hora – St. Barbara Temple (included in UNESCO World Heritage List since 1995)

The wealth and glory of the city comes from silver mines that were most heavily exploited in the 14th and 15th centuries. At that time, the town's importance was almost matching the significance of Prague. The most outstanding and impressive sights are the Gothic Cathedral of St. Barbara, the patron of miners, Italian Court (Vlašský dvůr), once upon a time the Royal Mint producing the famous Prague Groschen coins, or the nearby Hrádek, the castle which has finally become the Czech Museum of Silver in the end.

Český Krumlov – City Centre & Castle (included in UNESCO World Heritage List since 1992)

Becoming still more popular to thousands of visitors to the Czech Republic, Český Krumlov remains a historical, architectural and cultural monument, the value of which is yet strengthened by its picturesque location on the meander of the Vltava River flowing almost through its historical centre. The town is magnificent urban complex with over 300 historical buildings and an absolutely unique atmosphere. A visit here is a never ending exploration through the maze of crooked alleys, discovery of hidden corners and a rewarding experience that is hard to forget. The amazing castle on a hill above the town is a complex of over 40 buildings, 5 courtyards and spacious gardens hiding a unique technical curiosity, open-air rotary amphitheatre first opened in 1958. No wonder that Český Krumlov simply cannot be missing on the UNESCO World Heritage List where it was included in 1992.

Holašovice (included in UNESCO World Heritage List since 1998)

First mentioned in the mid-13th century, the village has experienced two destructive strikes in the course of time: the plague epidemics in the 16th century and World War II, during which it was adjoined to the German Empire. In 1946, the German inhabitants were expelled and most of the village buildings were confiscated in favour of the Czechs. However, as the post-war repairs have left the whole setting almost intact, the village could be easily recognized as an example of a preserved countryside settlement, with well-deserved inclusion in the UNESCO List of World Cultural Values in 1998.

Telč (included in UNESCO World Heritage List since 1992)

Included in UNESCO List of World Cultural Values in 1992, Telč seems to begin its history from a foundation of small chapel in 1099. However, its rapid expansion came only after 1354, interrupted by destructive religious Hussite wars in the 15th century, from which it was recovering for long years, turning from the Gothic into Renaissance architectural style in the second half of the 16th century when the town centre acquired its appearance admired until today. Suffering again under Swedish troops during the infamous Thirty Year War, it eventually enjoyed essential development in the 18th and 19th centuries, finally being connected with the surrounding world via a railway line.



VIENNA

07 NIGHTS / 08 DAYS



DAY 01: ARRIVE VIENNA

- Arrive in Vienna followed by transfer to the hotel
- Arrive at the Hotel followed by Check-in
- Evening at your own Leisure
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 02: VIENNA

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Proceed for Vienna Sightseeing tour with Schönbrunn Palace (Regular and private options available):

Our sightseeing tour starts at the Operngasse 8 and takes you to the Ringstrasse boulevard, where you pass many popular tourist attractions.

First take a look at the impressive Vienna State Opera. It is home to the famous "Opera Ball" which takes place every

year. Not far from the Opera, the grand Hofburg Palace is located, the former winter residence of the imperial family.

Next you will see the monumental buildings of the Museum of Art History and the Museum of Natural History. Further sights on our tour are the neoclassical Parliament, the acclaimed Burgtheater and the striking City Hall.

Guided tour of Schloss Schönbrunn

On arrival at Schönbrunn Palace our guided tour starts at once, no need to wait for Austria's most popular tourist attraction! The former imperial summer residence is a listed World Heritage Site and attracts millions of people from all over the world every year.

We visit the historic state-rooms and see how the imperial family once lived. Afterwards you have time to take a stroll through the palace gardens or enjoy a cup of original Viennese coffee and a piece of delicious apple strudel.

- Afternoon and evening at your own leisure
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 03: VIENNA

- After breakfast, enjoy day at your own leisure.
- In the afternoon proceed for the The Original Viennese Strudel Show. This show is organised at Café Residenz in the Cavalier Wing, situated left of the main entrance in the imperial palace Schönbrunn.

Downstairs under the café in an old-time romantic cellar, you will find the "Hofbackstube Schönbrunn".

Here you have the chance to watch how an original professional confectioner prepare the world-renowned delicious "Viennese Apple strudel". The staff in the bakery will invite you to sample these sweets and also provide you with insider information on Viennese bakery tradition. Finally, you can shop in the bakery. There you will find a broad selection of Apple strudel specials.

- Evening at your own leisure
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 04: VIENNA

- Breakfast at the hotel, Day at your own leisure
- Evening Mozart and Strauss Concert
- Overnight at the hotel

DAY 05: VIENNA

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Proceed for tasting Experience at Café Museum

Since 1899, the Café Museum in Vienna is a modern masterpiece for all senses. Come and discover our Viennese coffee house culture! Right next to where our tempting pastries are displayed, the Ferrari-red Chimbali coffee machine adds to the convincing atmosphere. The smell of coffee is in the air, spoons clatter and delicious Meinl coffee is served by elegant waiters. Silver globe light fixtures, in the original 1930s Josef Zotti-style, create a very special lighting effect. Take a seat on one of the original Thonet chairs or in one of the red booths and let the ambience of our Viennese coffee house surround you. We, the Querfeld family, have fallen in love with the Café Museum and turned it into a bright, inspiring place. So many coffee houses in Vienna must be common. In summer, you can enjoy the lightness of being in the urban guest garden, with a view of the Karlskirche and the golden dome of the Secession Building. Like Adolf Loos, Karl Kraus, Gustav Klimt and other brilliant minds more than a hundred years ago...

Enjoy the Viennese coffee house culture having a Wiener Melange and a piece of applestrudel!

Then continue to Augarten Porcelain Factory Museum in the former imperial pleasure building which illustrates the history of Viennese porcelain from its beginning to today.

- Overnight at the hotel

DAY 06: VIENNA

- Breakfast at the hotel. Day at your own leisure or optional sightseeing

- Full day trip to Salzburg (regular and private option available)
On the journey you will get a first impression of the beauty of the Salzkammergut countryside with its clear lakes and majestic mountains. "The Sound of Music" fans will recognise the landscape from the opening scenes of the film. Guided tour Salzburg - On a guided walk through the historical centre of Salzburg, we show you the most popular tourist attractions. One of the most famous scenes of "The Sound of Music" was filmed in the gardens of the Mirabell Palace. It was here that Maria sang, together with the children, the song "Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So" at the fountain and on the steps. As well you will see the horse pond and the riding school where Baron Trapp sang the "Edelweiß song" as a farewell. A real highlight of our city trip to Salzburg is the Getreidegasse, the street where the birthplace of Mozart is located. This narrow street still reminds us of the 18th century. Other tourist attractions on our sightseeing tour: University Church, St. Peter's Abbey, the Salzburg Cathedral and the Festival Hall. You have some time at your disposal to explore the city, eat lunch or shop for souvenirs until our departure. Return to Vienna
- Overnight at the hotel

DAY 07: VIENNA

- Breakfast at the hotel. Proceed to ENJOY A Piece of Vienna at the SACHER ECK
- At the Hotel Sacher, time never stands still. A fact that is impressively displayed in seven new suites on the bel étage, the new Sacher Eck and the new Sacher Confiserie. There is a lot going on behind the imperial facades of the Sacher Hotel in Vienna. In 2017, the owner family embarks on an ambitious journey of carefully renovating seven suites on the bel étage, creating 150 additional seats at the new Sacher Eck – which now spreads over two floors – as well as presenting a completely new concept for the Sacher Confiserie. "Managing a hotel is a permanent process of renewal," asserts Reiner Heilmann and Armie-Angélique Weinberger, the two hotel managers at the Sacher hotels in Vienna and Salzburg. "Our guests expect the best – not only from our employees but from the hotels themselves." The new Sacher Eck spreads over two floors, allowing for even more space to enjoy a glass of wine or delicious Sacher treats. On the newly created first floor, guests enjoy cosy seats, welcoming séparées and a magnificent view over the Philharmonikerstraße to the Vienna State Opera. The new Sacher Confiserie impresses with majestic white marble and the introduction of a new sales concept that focuses on visual and tactile experiences for the customers.

A Piece of Vienna - The Original Sacher-Torte has been the most famous cake in the world since 1832 and the original recipe remains a well-kept secret of our hotel. Only the Original Sacher-Torte is produced according to this original recipe. The basis of the entire confection is a chocolate cake, thinly coated by hand with best-quality apricot jam. The chocolate icing on top of it is the crowning glory. It tastes best with a portion of unsweetened whipped cream.

- Overnight at the hotel

DAY 08: VIENNA DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check out. Extras to be settled directly.
- Transfer to Vienna International Airport for departure flight

VIENNA, SALZBURG

07 NIGHTS / 08 DAYS



Vienna



Salzburg



Salzburg



DAY 01: ARRIVE VIENNA

- Arrive in Vienna followed by transfer to the hotel
- Arrive at the Hotel followed by Check-in
- Evening at your own leisure
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 02: VIENNA

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Proceed for Vienna Sightseeing tour with Schonbrunn Palace (Regular and private options available):

Our sightseeing tour starts at the Operngasse 8 and takes you to the Ringstrasse boulevard, where you pass many popular tourist attractions.

First take a look at the impressive Vienna State Opera. It is home to the famous "Opera Ball" which takes place every year. Not far from the Opera, the grand Hofburg Palace is located, the former winter residence of the imperial family.

Next you will see the monumental buildings of the Museum of Art History and the Museum of Natural History. Further sights on our tour are the neoclassical Parliament, the acclaimed Burgtheater and the striking City Hall.

Guided tour of Schloss Schönbrunn

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We visit the historic state-rooms and see how the imperial family once lived. Afterwards you have time to take a stroll through the palace gardens or enjoy a cup of original Viennese coffee and a piece of delicious apple strudel.

- Afternoon and evening at your own leisure
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 03: VIENNA

- After breakfast
- Proceed to enjoy a piece of Vienna at the SACHER ECK
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- In the evening, attend the Mozart and Strauss Concert.
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 04: VIENNA-SALZBURG

- Breakfast at the hotel, Check out of the hotel
- Transfer to the train station for train to Salzburg
- Arrive in Salzburg, hotel check-in, day at your own leisure
- Overnight at the hotel

DAY 05: SALZBURG

- Breakfast at the hotel then proceed to a Salzburg City tour and Mozart Residence (regular and private options available)
- This tour is the best way to see all the important sights of the city within 2.5 hrs: Mirabell Palace, Mozarteum (University of Music), Marionette Theatre, Mozart's Residence, Trinity Church, Hellbrunn Palace (short stop), Palace of Frohnburg, Nonnberg Abbey, Siegmund's Gate, Festival Halls, Horse Bath, Getreidegasse, Blasius Church. Incl. Entrance to Mozart's Residence.

- Overnight at the hotel

DAY 06: SALZBURG

- At your own leisure

DAY 07: SALZBURG

- Breakfast at the hotel. Proceed for the Sound of Music Tour (regular and private options available)
- Relive with us the making-of the, 'Sound of Music' movie in and around Salzburg. This tour, which has been Salzburg's most popular tour since 1967, is a combination of both historical Salzburg and the breath-taking Lakes and Mountains region. We will show you many of the film locations from the 'Sound of Music' and share not only background stories of the movie but also the history and culture of the region. Find out with us whether the hills of Salzburg truly are alive with the 'Sound of Music' as you listen to the original movie Soundtrack along the way.

The route the tour takes includes:

- Mirabell Gardens: Shown in many scenes including where Maria and the children sang 'Do-Re-Mi'.
- The Gazebo: Where Rolf and Liesl sang 'Sixteen Going on Seventeen' and Maria and the Baron sang 'Something Good'.
- Palace of Leopoldskron: This historical palace and its ground provided many filming locations including the lake where the boating scene took place.
- Nonnberg Abbey: This historical abbey was used both in the movie and the true story. In real life Maria and the Baron where married here in 1927.
- St. Gilgen/Lake Wolfgang: This picturesque area was featured in the opening sequence of the movie. The village of St. Gilgen is situated directly across from the famous Schafberg mountain.
- Church of Mondsee: The Sound of Music Wedding Church. This historical church of Mondsee was the location of the movie wedding between Maria and the Baron.

- Overnight at the hotel

DAY 08: SALZBURG- VIENNA

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check out. Extras to be settled directly.
- Transfer to Salzburg train station to take the train back to Vienna.
- Arrive in Vienna, hotel check-in. Evening at your own leisure.
- Overnight at the hotel

DAY 09: VIENNA DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check out. Extras to be settled directly.
- Transfer to Vienna International Airport for your departure flight

BUDAPEST

07 NIGHTS / 08 DAYS



DAY 01: ARRIVE BUDAPEST

- Arrive in Budapest followed by Meet & Greet by our representative
- Arrive at the Hotel followed by Check-in
- Evening at your own leisure
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 02: BUDAPEST

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Proceed for Budapest Sightseeing tour (Hop on Hop off, regular and private options available)
- Capital of Hungary, with almost two million inhabitants, centre of administration, industry, trade, transport and traffic, education, culture, arts and sports. It is a beautiful city situated on both banks of the Danube, Buda and Pest. The bridges which span the river are not just symbols of the city, but are symbols of its encounters. Of the capital cities of the world, Budapest is the richest in baths. Thermal waters gave rise to the world-fa-

mous bathing resort inaugurated by ancient Romans and developed especially by the Turkish occupants of Hungary in the 16-17th centuries. During the city tour guests will be acquainted with the most famous sights of the city: Castle district with the ancient houses with their leaded windows, the Matthias Church, the former Royal Palace and the panorama from the Fisherman's Bastion, the Heroes' Square with statues of the historical Hungarian kings, the Parliament, the St. Stephen church, the Opera House, the art nouveau buildings and the most interesting stories of the locals, and general information about history, the city, and life in Hungary.

- Afternoon/ evening at your own leisure
- Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 03 TO DAY 7: BUDAPEST

- Breakfast at the hotel, Day at your own leisure or you can choose from optional sightseeing tours and activities which we will happy to arrange for you
- Overnight at the hotel

OPTIONAL SIGHTSEEING AND ACTIVITIES

Within Budapest

- 1-hour sightseeing drink cruise or a 2 hours Dinner Cruise on River Danube
- Guided tour of the Parliament / Opera House / Hospital in the Rock/ Great Synagogue
- Typical Hungarian Gypsy Dinner with Folklore Show
- House of Unicum Tasting tour
- Winetasting
- Visiting one of the Thermal Baths in Budapest (Gellért or Széchenyi)
- Walking tour in the Jewish district and discovering Ruined bars
- Concerts ranging from classical, opera, ballet, and international musicians

DAY TRIPS FROM BUDAPEST

(regular and private options available)

Full day tour to the Danube Bend (Szentendre/ Visegrád/ Esztergom) Or Half-day tour of Szentendre

Before reaching Budapest, the River Danube turns sharply between rocky hills providing one of the most scenic views of Hungary: the Danube Bend. The Danube Bend is surrounded by historic and picturesque cities like Visegrad, Esztergom and Szentendre. Must-visit attractions in this trip are Castle of Visegrad, triangular shaped and perched on top of a 333metres hill soaring over the Danube bend Esztergom Basilica is the largest church in Hungary and third biggest in the world. It is the centre of the Hungarian Roman Catholic church. Szentendre, an adorable town full of art museums, galleries and churches

Full day excursion to Lake Balaton (Herend/ Tihany/ Balatonfüred)

The tour starts by visiting the world's largest Porcelain Manufactory in Herend, founded in 1826. Porcelanium offers high-class entertainment to its visitors. With the help of video films, pot-throwers and professional painters there are demonstrations to show how the porcelain paste will turn into a glossy porcelain item.

Following a guided tour through the rooms visitors are invited for a coffee. Then you proceed to see the largest freshwater lake in Central Europe, Lake Balaton. Our first stop is Balatonfüred which is a lovely small town on the north shore of Lake Balaton. We invite you for a short city sightseeing with a "nostalgia train". Before a one-hour cruise on Lake Balaton, you will have time to walk along the picturesque promenade and have something to eat. Next, we drive to Tihany Peninsula, which has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This area is rich in special natural and architectural values. Here you can enjoy the unique view of Balaton. Then you will have the opportunity to visit the Abbey of Tihany, founded in 1055 by the Hungarian King, András. Finally, we return to Budapest.

Half day tour of Gödöllő Castle

Gödöllő, located about 20 miles northeast of Budapest, is a historic town which dates back to the 14th century. The city is famous

for its Royal Palace, which is the second largest Baroque castle in the world. Antal Grassalkovich, a well-respected aristocrat, built the Castle at the beginning of the 18th century. Later, during the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the castle became a favorite summer residence of the royals. Emperor Franz Joseph and his wife Elizabeth (Sissi) spent a great deal of time here, as she loved Hungary far more than Austria and was happy to be in the company of Hungarians. After 1945, the Soviet Army took possession of the building, which resulted in decades of deterioration. Recently, the castle was beautifully restored to its original splendor, along with the upper and lower gardens. The palace houses a permanent exhibition, as well as seasonal exhibits offering historical and contemporary art all year round.

DAY 08: BUDAPEST

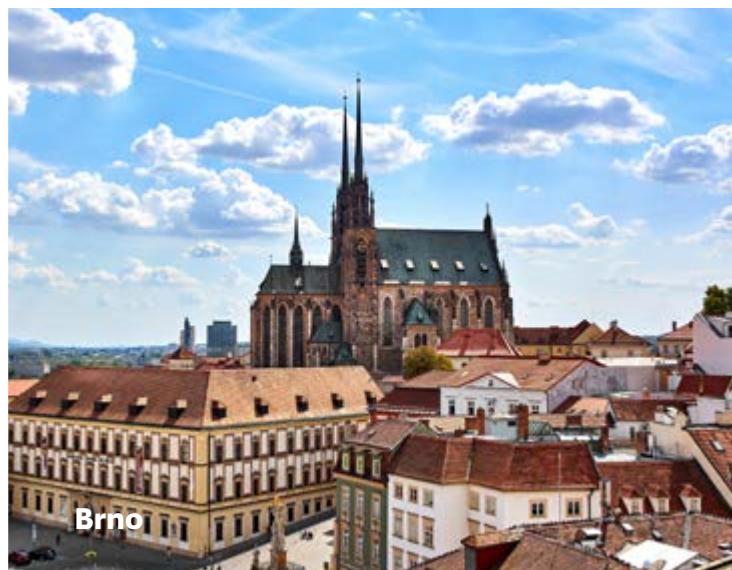
- Breakfast at the hotel, check out, extras to be settled directly.
- Transfer to airport for your departure flight.

FROM PRAGUE TO BUDAPEST

12 NIGHTS / 13 DAYS



Prague



Brno



Krakow



DAY 1: ARRIVAL TO PRAGUE

- After arrival to Prague meet with your tour director at the Airport and proceed for a short sightseeing in Prague Old town. Prague, the capital city of the Czech Republic, that is bisected by the Vltava River. Nicknamed "The City of a Hundred Spires,"

it's known for its Old Town Square, the heart of its historic core, with colorful baroque buildings, Gothic churches and medieval Astronomical Clock, which gives an animated hourly show. After sightseeing check in to hotel and time at your own leisure until dinner. Dinner either at the hotel or in a local restaurant in Prague. Overnight in Prague.

DAY 2: FULL DAY IN PRAGUE

- After Breakfast start with the full day sightseeing of Prague castle and Mala Strana (lesser town). Prague Castle is a castle complex in Prague, Czech Republic, dating from the 9th century. It is the official office of the President of the Czech Republic. The castle was the seat of power for kings of Bohemia, Holy Roman emperors, and presidents of Czechoslovakia. Continue your tour to Mala Strana (lesser town), a hillside area with views across the Vltava river to the old town. Hotels, casual eateries and traditional pubs line its narrow streets, and visitors scribble messages to the late Beatle on the John Lennon Wall. The river-side Kampa area offers fine dining, and exhibits of photos and letters at the Franz Kafka Museum. Visit the Church of Our Lady Victorious (Baby Jesus). Cross the Vltava river over the famous Charles Bridge. Completed in 1402, pedestrian Charles Bridge is lined with statues of Catholic saints. After sightseeing proceed for Lunch in brewery including sightseeing of the Brewery with

possibility to train your beer tapping skills. After lunch time at your own leisure, which you can use for shopping or exploring the city on own. Afterwards dinner in either hotel or local restaurant. (also possible to organise dinner cruise on luxurious boats, or folklore dinner - supplement). Overnight in Prague.

- Note: we can add shopping in an outlet Fashion Arena – no supplement

DAY 3: EXCURSION TO CESKY KRUMLOV

- After Breakfast start with the full day excursion to Cesky Krumlov. The city lies in the South Bohemia region of the Czech Republic. It's bisected by the Vltava River, and dominated by its 13th-century castle. The castle has Gothic, Renaissance and baroque elements, an 11-hectare garden and an original 17th-century baroque theatre. There are panoramic views of the old town and the river from the top of its round bell-tower. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant and in the afternoon visit the castle. Dinner either in Hotel or in a local restaurant in Cesky Krumlov. Overnight in Prague.

DAY 4: FROM PRAGUE TO WROCLAW

- After breakfast proceed to Wroclaw by bus. A city on the Oder River in western Poland. It's known for its Market Square, lined with elegant townhouses and featuring a modern fountain. Also on the square is the Gothic Old Town Hall, with its large astronomical clock. Nearby is the Panorama of Racławice, a painting depicting the 1794 battle for independence. The Centennial Hall auditorium, with its giant dome and tall spire, lies across the river. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant and in the afternoon a short sightseeing in the city. Dinner either at the hotel or in a local restaurant in Cesky Krumlov. Overnight in Wroclaw.

DAY 5: FROM WROCLAW TO KRAKOW

- After breakfast proceed to Krakow by bus. Stop on the way in Jasna Góra Monastery to see famous Black Madonna painting. Blessing and sightseeing by local Monk or Nun. Possible also by the local priest from the Philippines. Move on towards Krakow and stop in Częstochowa, for sightseeing and lunch. A city in southern Poland on the Warta River with 224,376 inhabitants making it the thirteenth-largest city in Poland. It is situated in the Silesian Voivodeship since 1999, and was previously the capital of the Częstochowa Voivodeship. Dinner either in Hotel or local restaurant. Overnight in Krakow.

DAY 6: FULL DAY KRAKOW

- After breakfast meet your private English speaking local guide for the city sightseeing including entrance to Wawel Cathedral and View of Wawel Castle (outside only). St. Mary's church is being reconstructed and is open for masses only. Krakow is the southern Poland city near the border of the Czech Republic and is known for its well-preserved medieval core and Jewish quarter. Its old town – ringed by Planty Park and remnants of the city's medieval walls – is centred on the stately, expansive Rynek Główny (market square). This plaza is the site of the Cloth Hall, a Renaissance-era trading outpost, and St. Mary's Basilica, a 14th-century Gothic church. Lunch in a local restaurant in the Jewish district of Kazimierz in Krakow Old Town. After lunch depart for the guided visit in the Auschwitz concentration camp, a complex of over 40 concentration and extermination camps built and operated by Nazi Germany in occupied Poland during World War II and the Holocaust. Dinner either at the hotel or a local restaurant. Overnight in Krakow.

DAY 7: FROM KRAKOW TO BRNO

- After breakfast proceed to Brno by bus. stop on the way in the beautiful town of Olomouc a city in the eastern province of Moravia in the Czech Republic. It's known for its 6 baroque fountains and the 18th-century Holy Trinity Column, a monument adorned with religious sculptures. On Wenceslas Hill are the Gothic St. Wenceslas Cathedral and the Romanesque Bishop's Palace. The Town Hall is a former merchant's house with vaulted rooms and an astronomical clock. Have free time to explore the city and lunch.
- Proceed to Brno for dinner at the hotel or in a local restaurant. Overnight in Brno.

DAY 8: FROM BRNO TO VIENNA

- After breakfast have a short sightseeing of Brno, a city known for its modernist buildings, like the restored Villa Tugendhat, completed in 1930 by architect Mies van der Rohe. The medieval Špilberk Castle houses a city museum, gardens and a former prison with vaulted tunnels. The Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul has baroque altars, a 14th-century statue of the Madonna and Child, and city views from its steeple.
- After lunch proceed to Vienna and have a short orientation sightseeing in which you will discover everything Vienna city centre offers for shopping or cultural history. Austria's capital, lies in the country's east on the Danube River. Its artistic and intellectual legacy was shaped by residents including Mozart, Beethoven and Sigmund Freud. The city is also known for its Imperial palaces, including Schönbrunn, the Habsburgs' summer residence. In the MuseumsQuartier district, historic and contemporary buildings display works by Egon Schiele, Gustav Klimt and other artists. After arrival lunch in local restaurant and afternoon sightseeing of city centre. Dinner either in Hotel or local restaurant. Overnight in Vienna.

DAY 9: FULL DAY VIENNA

- After breakfast start your tour of Schoenbrunn castle (highlights tour) visit the state rooms and private apartments of the imperial couple. After tour and time for leisure continue to a local restaurant for lunch. After lunch continue with sightseeing of the cities treasures and its artistic and intellectual legacy. Dinner either at the hotel or in a local restaurants in Vienna. Overnight in Vienna.

DAY 10: EXCURSION TO BRATISLAVA

- After breakfast start with the full day Excursion to Bratislava. The capital of Slovakia, is set along the Danube River by the border with Austria and Hungary. It's surrounded by vineyards and the Little Carpathian mountains, crisscrossed with forested hiking and cycling trails. The pedestrian-only, 18th-century old town is known for its lively bars and cafes. Perched atop a hill, the reconstructed Bratislava Castle overlooks old town and the Danube. Explore the castle and have a break for lunch. Return to Vienna for dinner either in Hotel or local restaurant. Overnight in Vienna.

DAY 11: FROM VIENNA TO BUDAPEST

- After Breakfast proceed to Budapest. After arrival break for lunch and later enjoy the day at your own leisure and spend some time for shopping in the centre of Budapest or explore the city on own. Dinner either at the hotel or in a local restaurant in Budapest. Overnight in Budapest.

DAY 12: FULL DAY BUDAPEST

- After breakfast start your city tour of Budapest. Hungary's capital, is bisected by the River Danube. Its 19th-century Chain Bridge connects the hilly Buda district with flat Pest. A funicular runs up Castle Hill to Buda's Old Town, where the Budapest History Museum traces city life from Roman times onward. Trinity Square is home to 13th-century Matthias Church and the turrets of the Fisherman's Bastion, which offers sweeping views. After lunch, enjoy the time for exploring and later meet for dinner in an upscale restaurant and overnight in Budapest.

DAY 13: DEPARTURE FROM BUDAPEST

- After breakfast enjoy the day at your own leisure and have lunch until your departure for the Airport.



MILAN BETWEEN SHOPPING & CULTURE

02 NIGHTS / 03 DAYS



Milan is the city of fashion. The city is a magical place where dreams offered by the most prestigious fashion shows become reality.

DAY 01: MILAN

- Arrival of participants at the airport and transfer to hotel.
- Afternoon orientation of the historical centre of Milan starting from Piazza Duomo, the centre of the city. The impressive view of the Cathedral, symbol of the city, dominates the square. A short walk from the Duomo, Corso Vittorio Emanuele II begins, a Promenade bustling with bars, cinemas, bookshops and fashion stores.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 02: MILAN

- After breakfast, full day tour of the city: Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, Piazza della Scala, Castello Sforzesco and the Upper Room, including inputs. Lunch at restaurant. In the afternoon continuation of the visit.
- Overnight and dinner at hotel.

DAY 03: MILAN

- After breakfast, morning dedicated to fashion. Visit of the most prestigious areas in the world where like jewelers, boutiques and design showrooms and furniture. The heart of the Golden Quadrangle of fashion is represented by Via Montenapoleone, according to American research is among the top fifteen most expensive and prestigious streets in the world.
- After lunch (free), end of service.

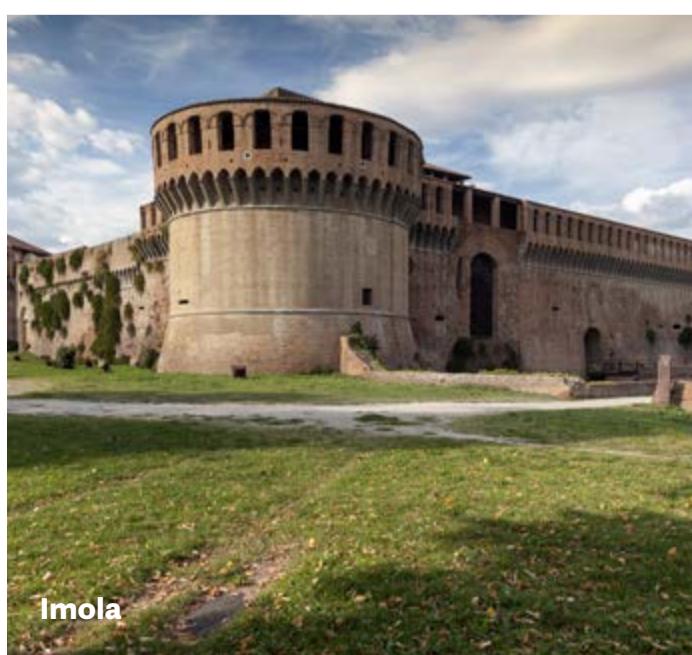


"MOTORVALLEY" IN EMILIA ROMAGNA

04 NIGHTS / 05 DAYS



Emilia Romagna is a region rich in places and events directly connected with this theme. Factories, circuits, motor events contribute to form a seriously unique tourist offer.



DAY 01: MODENA

- Arrival and check-in at the hotel in Modena or surroundings.
- Guided tour of Modena city centre.
- Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 02: MODENA-MARANELLO

- After breakfast, visit of a cheese dairy factory producing organic Parmigiano - Reggiano and of the "Museo dell'Auto e Moto d'Epoca Umberto Panini". The vehicles in the collection are of great value to Maserati, the «6CM» from 1936 and the "A6GCS Berlinetta Pininfarina". Transfer to Maranello. Guided tour of the Galleria Ferrari (Ferrari official museum) in Maranello.
- After a traditional lunch in a restaurant visit to the private Stanguellini museum, where you'll admire the first Fiat Sport 750 and 1100 cars, the engine constructed entirely by Stanguellini in 1950 and also the glorious Stanguellini Junior 1100 from the 1960s up to the famous Colibrì designed by Scaglione.
- Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 03: NONANTOLA - SANT'AGATA BOLOGNESE

- After breakfast, visit of Nonantola and Saint Sylvester Benedictine Abbey. Visit of the Lamborghini Museum in Sant'Agata Bolognese, hosting dozens of cars from the 60s on and some Formula 1 cars, engines, old tools from the factory and hundreds of model cars from different countries and years.
- After lunch guided tour of an acetaia where Traditional Balsamic Vinegar of Modena is produced. Visit of the Maserati showroom and official shop by the factory.
- Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 04: BOLOGNA

- After breakfast, transfer to Bologna and visit of Ducati Museum where you'll learn about the story of the evolution of Ducati's racing bikes. Visit of Bologna city centre. Free time for lunch.
- Afternoon: Free time for shopping.
- Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 05: IMOLA - DOZZA

- After breakfast, transfer to Imola and visit of the racing circuit Enzo e Dino Ferrari. Visit of Imola Castle. Transfer to Dozza and lunch.
- Visit of the Enoteca Regionale of Emilia-Romagna. End of our services.

LAND OF ART, GOOD FOOD & FAST CARS

07 NIGHTS / 08 DAYS



Emilia Romagna is a land with a soul. A district of cities of art unique in the world! It is a land rich in inspiration: from Verdi and Pavarotti music to the technology and design of Ferrari, Maserati, Pagani, Lamborghini and Ducati, going through to the special food products every town is so proud of...

DAY 01: MODENA

- Arrival and check-in at the hotel in Modena or surroundings.
- Guided tour of the city centre. In its ancient heart of capital city of the Este Duchy Modena hosts architectural jewels appreciated all over the world: the Cathedral, the Ghirlandina tower and Piazza Grande, declared Heritage of Humanity by Unesco and the Ducal Palace, now the site of the Military Academy.
- Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 02: MARANELLO - VIGNOLA - SASSUOLO

- After breakfast, visit of a cheese dairy factory producing organic Parmigiano - Reggiano and of the "Museo dell'Auto e Moto d'Epoca Umberto Panini". It is home to a collection of about 40 cars, 30 motorbikes and a selection of bicycles. The vehicles in the collection are of great value to Maserati, also because they are unique. Transfer to Maranello. Guided tour of the Galleria Ferrari (Ferrari official museum) in Maranello. Lunch in a restaurant with traditional menu. Transfer to Vignola and visit of the castle or to Sassuolo and visit of the Estense Ducal Palace.
- Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 03: CARPI-NONANTOLA

- After breakfast, guided tour of the scenic city centre of Carpi:

Piazza Martiri, the Pio Palace, the church of Santa Maria in Castello, the church of San Nicolò. Visit of Acetaia, producing traditional balsamic vinegar of Modena. Lunch in a restaurant with traditional menu.

- Afternoon: visit of the Benedictine Abbey in Nonantola founded in the 8th century and dedicated to Saint Sylvester.
- Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 4: BOLOGNA

- After breakfast, transfer to Bologna. Guided tour of the city centre. Free time for lunch. Free time for shopping. On the way back visit to a wine cellar producing organic wines "Colli Bolognesi Doc" and guided tasting.
- Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 5: PARMA - BUSSETO - RONCOLE VERDI

- After breakfast, transfer to Parma, guided tour of the old city centre: the Cathedral, the Baptistry and the Farnese Theatre. Visit to a production of Prosciutto di Parma DOP. Lunch.
- Afternoon: Giuseppe Verdi tour, discovering the land where he was born and lived, Busseto and Roncole Verdi.
- Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 6: FERRARA - DELTA DEL PO

- After breakfast, transfer to Ferrara and visit of the old city centre: Estense Castle, emblem of the power of the Este family and symbol of the town, Cathedral, ex-Jewish ghetto and Renaissance Ferrara. Lunch in a traditional restaurant in the medieval part of the town. Afternoon: boat excursion on the Delta del Po.
- Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 7: RAVENNA

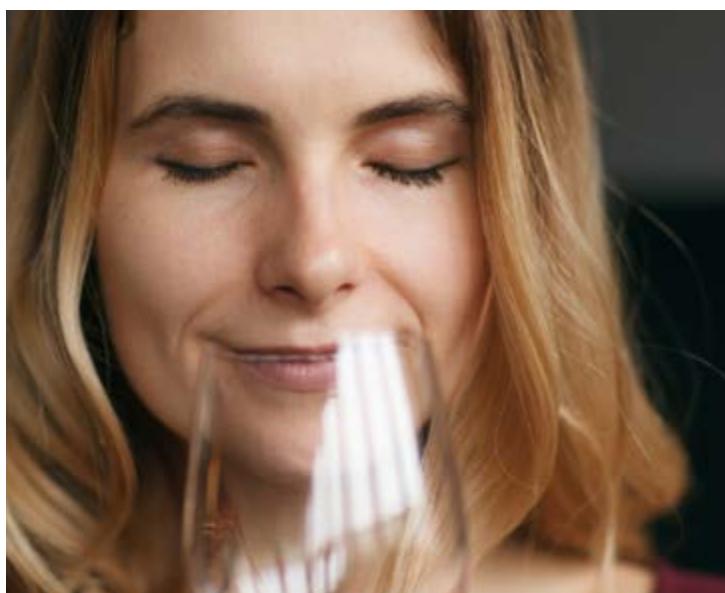
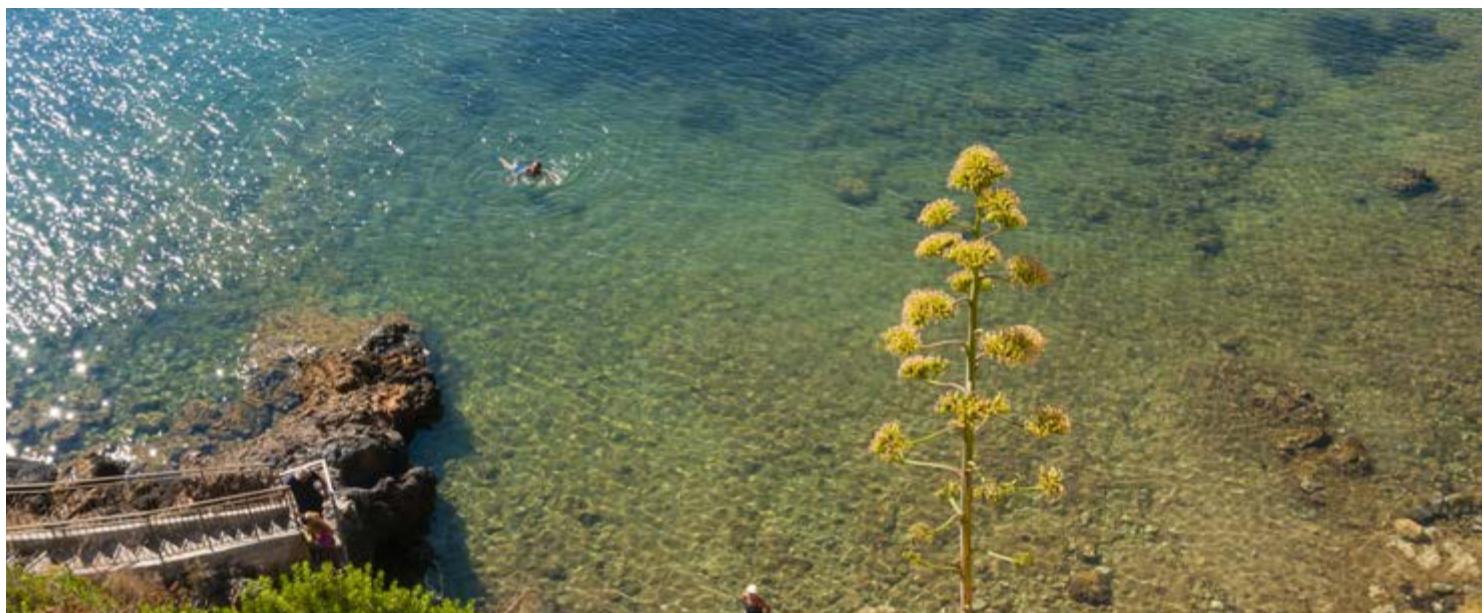
- After breakfast, transfer to Ravenna. Guided tour of the old city centre: Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, Basilica of San Vitale, Battistero Neoniano, Battistero degli Ariani, Archbishop Chapel, Teodorico Mausoleum. Free time for lunch. Afternoon: visit to Sant'Apollinare in Classe.
- Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 8: IMOLA - DOZZA

- After breakfast, transfer to Imola. Visit of Enzo e Dino Ferrari Track. Visit of the Rocca Sforzesca and of a production of wine of Imola hills, Colli di Imola DOC, with guided tasting. Afternoon: transfer to Dozza, the village of painted walls. Guided tour to the regional wine cellar. On the way back possibility of shopping at Castelguelfo City Outlet. End of our services.

TUSCANY, A TRIP TO “ALL SENSES”

07 NIGHTS / 08 DAYS



DAY 01

- Arrival at the hotel in the Maremma-Tuscany. Welcome cocktail and introduction of the program by the guide.
- Dinner and overnight.

DAY 02: “VIEW”

See the hills and the sea and make the best pictures

- Full day excursion. Half board in hotel.

DAY 03: “SMELL”

Smelling the scents of Tuscany

- The Mediterranean, herbs, vegetables, cheeses and fish. Visit a nursery and market of Grosseto. Half board in hotel.

DAY 04: “TOUCH”

Tap the clay

- Modeling, engobes and decorative engravings. Half board in hotel.

DAY 05: “HEAR”

Question of the waves

- We hear the sea, silence, dialect, music. Half board in hotel.

DAY 06: “TASTE”.

Taste the local dishes

- Cooking Course: tortelli Maremma * visit to a winery and tasting. Half board in hotel.

DAY 07: “FEEL GOOD”

Spas of Tuscany already used by the Romans

- A day at the spa. Half board in hotel, dinner and farewell.

DAY 08

- Breakfast. End of our services.



THE ART CAPITALS

06 NIGHTS / 07 DAYS



Rome



Florence



Venice

DAY 1: ROME

- On arrival at the Rome airport, transfer to the hotel. After dinner, an optional excursion is offered : Rome by night, to discover the lighted city.

DAY 2: ROME

- Free time to relax and enjoy a guided tour to discover the eternal city. You will visit the Basilica of St. Peter, the splendid Sistine Chapel, Colosseum, Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain.
- Dinner and overnight.

DAY 3: ROME - ASSISI - SIENA - FLORENCE

- Early morning, departure for Assisi, the mystic town of Saint Francis. Visit the Basilica of Saint Francis with its early Renaissance masterpieces by Giotto and Cimabue. Proceed on to Siena, the beautiful medieval city renowned for the Palio. Then on to Florence.
- Dinner and overnight.

DAY 4: FLORENCE

- Continental breakfast. Guided sightseeing tour of the cradle of the Renaissance. Visit the Piazza del Duomo, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistry of St. John, the Academy of Fine Arts Gallery housing the "David" by Michelangelo and Santa Croce. Rest of the day at your own leisure for optional sightseeing.
- Dinner and overnight.

DAY 5: FLORENCE - PADUA - VENICE

- Continental breakfast. Departure for Padua, where you will visit the famous Cathedral of St. Anthony, guarded by Donatello's "Gattamelata". Continue on to Venice, and upon arrival enjoy a guided walking tour of this unique city. You will see the Piazza and Basilica of St. Mark, the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs and the Prisons.
- Dinner and overnight.

DAY 6: VENICE

- Continental breakfast. Morning at your own leisure for optional tour to the islands of Murano, Burano and Torcello by motor launch or for shopping.
- Dinner and overnight.

DAY 7

- Continental breakfast. Transfer to Venice airport .



ITALY HIGHLIGHTS

07 NIGHTS / 08 DAYS



Florence



Pompeii



DAY 1: FLORENCE

- On early morning departure to Florence through the hilly countryside of Tuscany, where it is possible to remember the exceptional talents who travelled this path long before us, Dante, Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Galileo, Botticelli. After getting settled into our hotel, dinner at a lovely local restaurant to taste typical dishes with Tuscan wine.
- Overnight in hotel.

DAY 2: VENICE

- After Breakfast board on the first-class train to Venice. Arrival in time for a typical Venetian lunch with wines of the Veneto region (optional). After lunch, guided walking tour for a sightseeing of St. Mark's Square, the great Byzantine Basilica, and inside the Doge's Palace. Return to Florence on the evening.
- Dinner and overnight.

DAY 3: FLORENCE

- Today guided visit of the beautiful Florence, departure from Piazzale Michelangelo, followed by a tour of the Academy of Fine Arts where Michelangelo's proud "David" stands, the majestic Duomo built in 1296, the Giotto's Bell Tower and the Baptistry with its renowned "Gates of Paradise" doors. Continuation of the visit following the medieval streets to the most striking square in Florence, Piazza della Signoria and then to Santa Croce Church. Free time for shopping.
- Dinner and overnight.

DAY 4: NAPLES

- After breakfast, depart on a relaxing drive to Naples through the beautiful Tiber River Valley, the medieval villages of Orvieto and Orta, the rolling hills, scenic vineyards and dreamy olive groves of Tuscany, Umbria, Lazio and Campania. Finally arrival to the sapphire seas of the Gulf of Naples and the imposing presence of Vesuvius. Panoramic tour of Naples.
- Dinner and overnight.

DAY 5: CAPRI

- After breakfast, go across the bay of Naples to the world's most enchanting island: Capri. The vacation spot of Roman emperors and today's movie stars. Sail back to Naples in the late afternoon.
- Dinner and overnight in hotel.

DAY 6: POMPEI

- After breakfast departure to Pompeii. A city perfectly preserved as it was on that fateful day 2,000 years ago, when ash and lava literally stopped it in its tracks. You'll see the tragic fossils of people attempting to escape and the 'secret room'. In the afternoon, continue to Rome.
- Arrival in the late afternoon, dinner and overnight in hotel.

DAY 7: ROMA

- After breakfast, take a guided visit of the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, the room where the Pope is elected. Next visit to St. Peter's Basilica, by far the largest church in Christianity and see Michelangelo's Pieta, as well as Bernini's seven-story bronze canopy located above the main altar. After a break for lunch, continue to a panoramic tour of Imperial Rome including Castel St. Angelo, the Roman Forum, Largo Argentina, the Jewish Ghetto and the Circus Maximus, Colosseum. Dinner . After dinner, there's the possibility to go for a night city sightseeing of Rome (optional). Overnight.

DAY 8

- Continental breakfast. End of the tour.

MAGIC SALENTO

05 NIGHTS / 06 DAYS



Lecce



Santa Maria Di Leuca



Gallipoli

DAY 1

- Arrival at Bari "Karol Wojtyla" or Brindisi. Transfer to hotel in Lecce. Welcome drink. Accommodation in the rooms.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 2: LECCE

- After breakfast, stroll through the historic centre of Lecce, the baroque capital, known as the "Florence of the South". Visit the main monuments including the Convento Olivetani, the Norman church of St. Nicholas and Cataldo, Arc de Triomphe and Via Palmieri. Lunch in a tavern. In the afternoon, following the visit, you can admire the Piazza del Duomo, the Cathedral, the Basilica of Santa Croce and Castello. In evening dinner at a typical restaurant in the old town, with animation folk.
- Return and overnight at the hotel.

DAY 3: OTRANTO

- After breakfast transfer to Otranto called "Gateway to the East." Visit the old town. Lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon free time for shopping.
- Return to hotel. Dinner and overnight.

DAY 4: SANTA MARIA DI LEUCA

- Breakfast and departure for Santa Maria di Leuca, the extreme tip of Italy where they meet the Ionian Sea and the Adriatic Sea, located in a unique setting. Visit the Sanctuary of Santa Maria de Finibus Terrae. Lunch at a local restaurant. Continue to Castro and visit the Grotta Zinzulusa.
- Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

DAY 5: GALLIPOLI

- Breakfast and departure for Gallipoli, an ancient maritime city. Guided tour of its historical centre. Pranzo seafood in a restaurant. Return to Otranto through the town of Nardo and Gaglianico.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 6

- Breakfast. Transfer to the airport and end of our services.



SICILY PLACES OF FAITH

07 NIGHTS / 08 DAYS



"Man has always sought to impress a memory of himself in history leaving traces of his existence and his irrepressible relation with the divine... The rich and variegated Sicilian religious-artistic patrimony has stimulated us to trace out itineraries through the towns, places and icons of faith".

DAY 1

- Arrive at Catania/Palermo and transfer to Capo D'Orlando.
- Dinner at the hotel.

DAY 2: PATTI - TINDARI

- After breakfast, visit Patti, with its cathedral, and Tindari, to see the Shrine of the Black Madonna. Return to hotel for dinner.

DAY 3: SIRACUSA

- Breakfast. Full day tour in Syracuse you will visit the Cathedral, the church of San Giovanni, the Catacombs and the Shrine of Our Lady of Tears. Dinner at the hotel.

DAY 4: PALERMO - CEFLÙ

- Breakfast. Departure for the visit of Palermo: the Palatine Chapel, the Cathedral, the Church of Jesus and the Cathedral of Monreale. In the afternoon the possibility to visit the beautiful cathedral, with two towers, in Cefalu. Dinner at the hotel.

DAY 5: PALAZZO ADRIANO - SAN MARCO D' ALUNZIO

- Breakfast. Free morning in Capo D'Orlando with possibility to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of the sixteenth century. In the afternoon we visit St. Mark of D'alunzio, a village located in the Nebrodi mountains. Dinner at the hotel.

DAY 6:

- Breakfast. Full day tour to Agrigento, a town known as the "Valley of the Temples". Dinner at the hotel.

DAY 7:

- Breakfast. After breakfast, you climb the Mountain of Nebrodi with its spectacular landscape of the Dolomites. The first step in Frazzanò to visit the Church of the Annunciation, the Church of San Lorenzo and the beautiful Abbey of St. Filippo di Fragala. The tour continues through the villages of Longi, Galati Mammertino San Salvatore Fitalia which is expected to stop for a lunch of local produce.
- After lunch return to hotel for dinner.

DAY 8:

After breakfast, transfer to Catania/Palermo and departure.



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