

PRAGUE, VIENNA & BUDAPEST TOURS

Here's what we've got planned. All tours are included in your package

PRAGUE:

Friday, May 17th, 9:00 a.m. – Half Day Walking Tour

Our guide will meet us and take us on a 4-hour tour. Let's get acquainted with this beautiful city! An introductory walk through the four main historical areas of the city with history introduction and some culture/social talks: visit of the Castle Town (Hradcany) – where the Prague complex and a great view of the whole city is, the Lesser Town (Mala Strana) – beautiful gardens and baroque palaces and churches, the Charles Bridge (Karlův most), the Old Town (Staré Město) - Old Town Hall with its Astronomical Clock, a quick look into the Jewish Town and the New Town (Nové Město) – Wenceslas square area.

Saturday, May 18th – Kutna Hora Tour & Cesky Sternberk

Today we will enjoy a full day on tour to two amazing places, one of is a World Heritage Site! We'll start off at Kutna Hora. Visiting the town only to see the ossuary is a wasted opportunity though; the historic centre is one of the country's prettiest and the [gothic cathedral of St Barbara](#) arguably the country's most spectacular. We'll also take a tour of the [old silver mines](#), as far as six floors below ground.

The bone chapel, cathedral, and mine tour are the highlights of Kutná Hora, but there're other impressive churches, lovely back streets and lanes to wander around and Europe's only Museum of Alchemy. The meals at V Ruthardce and the beer at the Dacicky beerhall are some of the best you'll find in Bohemia. You will also want to take a walk up the hill for a panoramic view!

Check out this cool website: http://www.outsideprague.com/kutna_hora/kutna_hora.html

And this one: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/732>

Kutna Hora Tour from Prague



Kutna Hora Tours from Prague

Enjoy a sightseeing day tour to Kutná Hora in Prague, Czech Republic.

After a one hour drive east of Prague you will arrive at the architecturally rich town of Kutná Hora, which was built in the Middle Ages in the middle of an extensive silver ore field. It became, over the course of time, the second most significant town after Prague because of the production of money which symbolizes the force and wealth of Czech kings and the kingdom.

In 1995, the city center of Kutná Hora was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are many wonderful medieval buildings to view, including the Gothic, five-apsed St. Barbara Church.

Our second stop is [to Cesky Sternberk](#), a wonderful set on the steep stony bank of the Sázava. Called the "Pearl of Posázaví" by a romantic poet [Posázaví is the region around the river], the castle was built in 1241 by Zdeslav of Divišov, and given the name "Šternberk" according to the custom of

the day. One quite remarkable and certainly unique aspect of Český Šternberk is that the castle belongs now to a descendant of the man who first had it built, Zdeslav of Sternberg.

FREE DAY, Sunday, May 19th

I was originally going to plan another tour for today to yet another castle but after further thought decided against taking you out of Prague. I really feel there is so much to see and enjoy in Prague that there is no reason to pull you away.

Monday, May 20th – in route to Vienna

We will break up our 7 hour drive from Vienna to Prague with this wonderful stop at one of my favorite places in Europe - Cesky Kromlov. You will love this medieval village (complete with moat and drawbridge) with an incredible castle. This is normally done from Prague but doing this tour in route to Prague from Vienna makes more sense and helps break up our drive too.

Cesky Krumlov & Ceské Budejovice City Tours from Prague



Cesky Krumlov & Ceské Budejovice City Tours from Prague

From Prague, enjoy a day tour to the cities of Cesky Krumlov & Southern Bohemia to visit Ceské Budejovice ("City of Beer"). The town of Český Krumlov is picturesquely situated above the meandering valley along the upper Vltava river in Southern Bohemia. It has won an international reputation mainly thanks to its historical riches.

More than three hundred historic buildings dominated by a huge castle and the church of St. Vitus bear witness to their rich past. Český Krumlov has enormous appeal as an urban community and has been included among the monuments on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage list.

The Ceský Krumlov Castle has enormous historical significance in Czech history, as the first settlement of the castle promontory dates back to the Bronze Age. Before 1250, the Medieval castle was founded and in the second half of the 16th century the castle was restored to a splendid Renaissance residence worthy of the great Lords.

The [State Castle of Český Krumlov](#), with its architectural standard, cultural tradition, and expanse, ranks among the most important historic sights in the central European region. Building development from the 14th to 19th centuries is well-preserved in the original groundplan layout, material structure, interior installation and architectural detail. There are other tours that are offered of the castle as well including the tower, museum, theatre and more but our time is limited and you'll want to stroll the town.

After our tour of the castle we'll meet with our guide that I have hired who will give us some history and help us explore the main square, main church, panoramic castle views, oblique labyrinth of the narrow streets, nooks and crannies and crumbling medieval buildings. The red roofed, century old houses cuddle in a bend of dark Moldava River. Have lunch at the river banks – have carp Czech style and some beers!

<http://www.ckrumlov.info/docs/en/kaktualita.xml>

http://www.castle.ckrumlov.cz/docs/en/zamek_oinf_sthrza.xml



VIENNA:

Tuesday, May 21st, 9:00 a.m.

This morning we'll join our guide for a nice half day city tour. We'll enjoy the **Belvedere** gardens – **Schönbrunn** Palace (Highlight Tour) – end next to the Opera (down town). At the end of the tour you can chose to have the rest of the day for exploring or you may continue with an afternoon tour.

Afternoon Tour - Vienna Woods and Baden

After lunch we will continue our tour with Andrea. We will visit the [Vienna Woods](#) a very scenic area, of

to hear stories of “Singing Monks” or about the tragedy Mayerling. We will then visit the [Abbey of Heiligenkreuz](#). a beautiful and living Cistercian monastery. Stift Heiligenkreuz is the second-oldest Cistercian monastery in the world and the oldest continuously active and inhabited one. Stift Heiligenkreuz, peacefully situated in the middle of the **"Wienerwald"**, the Vienna woods, is one of the beautiful medieval monasteries in the world.



most

The medieval parts of the monastery complex (church, cloister, living quarters) are enriched by Baroque additions to interiors and furniture, and also feature an extensive library and collection of atr treasures.

Finally we will stroll the “Biedermeier” a charming town from the early 1800's and try some local wines. We will drive through the vineyards as we head back to Vienna.

Wednesday, May 22nd – Danube Valley Tour

Here's a wonderful full day tour that covers a lot. We will have our guide, Andrea with us as we enjoy a full day in the Danube Valley.

The history and legends of this lovely part of Austria come to life as you wend 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.

Here is the full schedule:

8:30 depart from hotel

10:30 Tour-reservation at the [Abbey of Melk](#). Here's another website that will show you just how impressive this monastery' is: <http://www.stiftmelk.at/englisch/index.html> During the visit of Melk Abbey tour guests see the exhibition in the former Imperial Rooms, the Marble Hall, the balcony and the library. Then we visit the



church without a guide. The guided tour takes approximately 1 hour.

11:30-1:15 time to stroll the bastion park, the quaint village of Melk (down hill) or have lunch and/or some drinks at the monasteries' tavern.

1:15 bus takes you down to the Danube (just 10 minutes ride)

1:50 1-1/2 hour Boat-Tour through the most scenic section of the Danube Valley.

12:15 Arrive in [Duernstein](#), the landmark village/town of the Danube Valley.

Time to stroll, taste some wine or some of the local produce like apricot jelly or apricot brandy.

4:15 Bus leaves for Vienna

6:00 Arrival at your hotel.

Danube Valley

Through this romantic scenery full of history and legends the Danube winds its way past charming old villages and steep vineyards. The old castles tell us about the former importance of this trade- and trafficway, one of them - Dürnstein - especially famous, because here King Richard Lionheart was imprisoned, while waiting for his ransom to arrive from England, raised by his faithful Minstrel Blondel. During a romantic boat-trip the history comes alive. The heart of the Wachau is the old wine-merchants' town Krems. The highlight of this excursion will be the visit of the Benedictine abbey of Melk, one of Austria's most famous Baroque buildings, which together with the Wachau area, won the award for "Best Historic Destination of the World" in 2008. Possibility for lunch at the Abbey Restaurant at Melk. The boat ride takes place from April 16th to October 30rd 2011 In the winter season we invite you for lunch



BUDAPEST:

Friday, May 24th, 9:00 a.m.

We arrive on the 23rd. From our hotel you will enjoy walking around our neighborhood. Friday morning we will offer a half day tour with Andrea McKay who was rated the #1 guide on Tripadvisor for Budapest. This tour will take us to the Caste District, Gellért hill and Heroes' square. We will have the option to visit Matthias church as well. **This morning tour is included in your package** with the bus and guide. The entrance of fee of 5 euro for the Matthias Church is on your own. At the end of the morning tour we will drop off anyone who would like to visit one of the mineral spring spas. From there you will take the subway back to our hotel. Otherwise we will take a lunch break and continue to see Budapest with an afternoon tour (see below).

This afternoon we will continue our tour with Andrea. First, we will visit the [Central market](#) and enjoy some free time for lunch there. From there we will go to the cave church <http://www.sziklatemplom.hu> which is very interesting and unique since the church is inside a natural cave. We will then go to the Parliament area and then [St. Stephen Basilica](#).

COST: with bus, guide and admission fees is \$30.

SATURDAY, MAY 25th, 9:00 a.m.

"Bends of the Danube" Tour



The **Danube Bend** area gives you an insight into Hungarian history and you may also see the lovely countryside, landscape and natural beauty. The tour goes along the river Danube to the north from the capital to the Danube Bend. The first stop is [ESZTERGOM](#) which is the ecclesiastical centre of Hungary and has the largest Roman Catholic church of the country. After visiting this majestic building the tour goes on to [VISEGRÁD](#)

which used to be Royal Residence and where the ruins of a 13th century fortress can be found and you may enjoy a splendid panoramic view of the river Danube as well and get acquainted with the rich history. The last town is the charming, baroque artists' village of [SZENTENDRE](#) which has a very special architecture and atmosphere due the great number of Serbian refugees settling here in the 17th century. It also used to be the home for hundreds of artists at the turn of the century. It is well known for its charming colorful houses, narrow cobblestoned streets and patios, antique shops, museums and cafes. It is great place for shopping and lunch.

And there you have it. What we have here is the making of a wonderful, memorable vacation. I'm looking forward to each one of these tours.

Thank you,

Ed Reder