

GREAT IMPERIAL CITIES

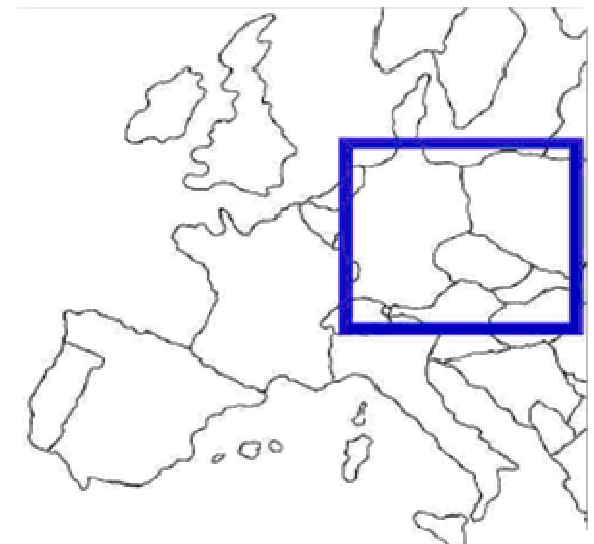
Germany – Czech Republic – Hungary – Austria: 14 days

On this tour you'll see places that were difficult to visit some decades ago. Central and Eastern Europe - storybook places that house countless treasures of architecture and art, with cities of true greatness and landscapes of inspiring beauty. Get acquainted with the history of modern Berlin and "Golden" Prague, experience the dreamy atmosphere of by-gone days in Budapest and Vienna and make your own first-hand observations of today's life in these old-world-places.

A journey into the glorious past and rich cultural present of world famous European capitals and cities.



The World



Europe



"Great Imperial Cities"

Features:

Sightseeing with local guides in

- Berlin (Germany)
- Potsdam (Germany)
- Prague (Czech Republic)
- Budapest (Hungary)
- Vienna (Austria)
- Salzburg (Austria)
- Munich (Germany)

Inside visits to:

- Museum of the Wall Berlin (Germany)
- Prague Fortress (Czech Republic)
- Backstage Tour Opera house Vienna (Austria)
- Schoenbrunn Palace and Gardens Vienna (Austria)
- Nymphenburg Palace and Park Munich (Germany)
- St. James Cathedral Rothenburg (Germany)

Included Highlights:

- Welcome Dinner with drinks in Berlin (Germany)
- Excursion to Potsdam (Germany)
- Dinner with Hungarian Music in Budapest (Hungary)
- Dinner with "new wine" in Vienna (Austria)
- Buffet dinner with Bavarian specialties and entertainment in Munich (Germany)
- Farewell Dinner with drinks in Frankfurt (Germany)

Day 1 Depart USA

Overnight transatlantic flight to Berlin

Day 2 Berlin

"Willkommen, Bienvenue, Welcome".....

Pulsating World-Metropolis in the 20's, destroyed in the 40's, now reunited and again vibrant. Your Tour Director will give you an orientation tour of the surroundings of the Hotel. In the evening enjoy a Welcome Dinner.

Welcome Dinner and overnight in Berlin



on top of Brandenburger Tor

Day 3 Berlin

Today's sightseeing includes many spots that will evoke the drama of the past and present: Unter den Linden - Avenue of the Kings of Prussia, the Reichstag, the former Border Crossing Checkpoint Charlie, the remains of the Berlin Wall - scenes of tragedy and triumph in the 20th Century; Kurfuerstendamm, the newly rebuilt Potsdamer Platz - places of contemporary culture and renewal. In the afternoon you are free for your own discoveries or some shopping. Your Tour Director will give you valuable advise regarding museums, shopping areas, restaurants etc.

Overnight in Berlin



a piece of the Berlin Wall

Day 4 Excursion to Potsdam

Most of the day will be spent in the charming little town of Potsdam, just outside Berlin. You'll walk through the gardens of Sanssouci, where Frederick the Great's Palace stands and see Cecilienhof (now a Hotel), where Churchill, Stalin and Truman met to decide the fate of post-war Germany in 1945. Then you have time to explore the center of Potsdam on your own (insider tip: Dutch Quarter) before returning to Berlin. Overnight in Berlin



Cecilienhof, Potsdam

Day 5 Berlin – Prague

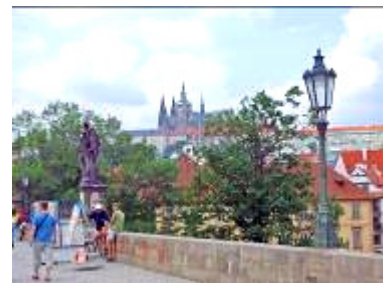
Drive into the Czech Republic to Prague. Lunch stop and short orientation tour in Dresden. Dinner and overnight in Prague



Dresden, Cathedral and Castle

Day 6 Prague

Sightseeing of Prague, the "Golden City of a Hundred Towers", considered by many to be the most beautiful baroque city in Europe. On the list are: the Hradshin Castle, residence of the Hapsburgs for centuries, the Wenzel-Square -- hub of the modern city and site of the protests of the Prague Spring of 1968. In the afternoon time remains for strolling and "nashing" or maybe a ride on the river Moldau to get a different view of the city. Overnight in Prague



Prague Castle and Charles Bridge

Day 7 Prague - Bratislava – Budapest

Head south through the hills of Bohemia and visit Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, before crossing the border into Hungary. Late afternoon arrival in Budapest, the capital of Hungary and city with southern flair. Dinner will be in a typical local restaurant with "Czardas" music. Special dinner and overnight in Budapest



in the Streets of Bratislava

Day 8 Budapest

A local guide takes you around this most charming city: see the Fisherman's Bastion in Buda, the elegant parks of Pest, see the Parliament and St. Margret's Island with its mineral baths and visit the magnificent Opera house. The afternoon is free for a cruise on the Danube or going to one of the cozy cafes or healthy mineral spas which Budapest is well known for.

Overnight in Budapest



Freedom Bridge over Danube (Budapest)

Day 9 Budapest – Vienna

Stop in Esztergom, to visit the huge cathedral, dedicated to St. Stephen, patron saint of Hungary, that towers over the spectacular Danube Bend. Győr, a quaint little town gives more insight into the Hungarian way of life before crossing the border into Austria. Enjoy today's dinner in a local "Heurigen" (new wine) Restaurant accompanied by typical Viennese Music.

Special dinner and overnight in Vienna



Esztergom with St. Stephen

Day 10 Vienna

Today you will get to know Austria's great capital: the remarkable Ringstrasse, the Belvedere Palace, Charles Church, the Hofburg, residence of the Hapsburg emperors and empresses, and the modern UN city on the other side of the Danube. Then a back stage tour of the Opera house. The remainder of the day is free for independent discoveries: a delicious Sacher Cake, a stroll along the Danube or maybe in the Prater Park. Why not listen to some Mozart music and Strauss waltzes in the evening?

Overnight in Vienna



Delicious Sacher cake

Day 11 Vienna - Salzburg – Munich

The morning drive is through Lower Austria. In the afternoon a guided tour of Salzburg, the town of Mozart, of "The Sound of Music" and of Europe's most elegant Opera festival. Then through the rolling foothills of the Alps on to Munich, the capital of Bavaria. Tonight a Bavarian Dinner is served and you'll enjoy traditional folk entertainment.

Bavarian buffet dinner and Overnight in Munich



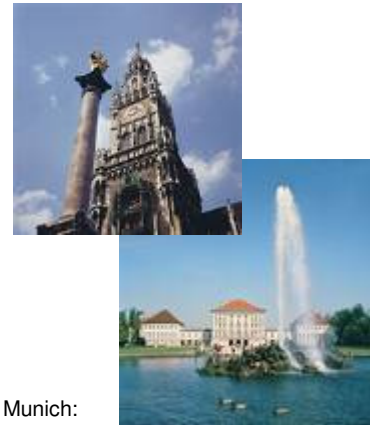
Bavarian Evening

Day 12 Munich

On the city tour you see the sights that have made Munich a magnet for tourists from all corners of the world: Ludwigstrasse, an Italian avenue sponsored by Bavaria's King Ludwig I, the renowned Glockenspiel (carillon) situated on the fairy-tale like main square, the 1972 Olympic grounds next to the beacon-like BMW factory and the food market surrounded by picturesque church towers. An inside visit is then scheduled of Nymphenburg – a beautiful summer palace of the rulers of Bavaria, situated in a gorgeous landscape garden. Free afternoon for a museum visit, a relaxing stroll along the Isar river or through the pedestrian zone lined with shops and stores.

Overnight in Munich

Palace



Munich:
Town Hall and Nymphenburg

Day 13 Munich – Frankfurt

A morning stop is scheduled in Rothenburg, the medieval jewel on the Romantic Road. There you pay a visit to St. James cathedral with its well known Holy Blood Altar (a masterpiece of the early 16th C woodcarver Riemenschneider, the man who made "wood speak"). Time for independent discoveries and last minute souvenir shopping, before driving on to Frankfurt, Germany's Manhattan. A short orientation tour will show that Frankfurt is not only a modern financial center, but a city whose long and rich past is still visible.

Farewell dinner and overnight in Frankfurt



Rothenburg: once and now

Day 14 Departure

transfer to Frankfurt airport – it is "Auf Wiedersehen" (see you again) to Europe and to the European Tour Director as you check in to fly back home.