



TREASURES OF CENTRAL EUROPE

 Educational
Tours

 Discover the Global Classroom

14 DAYS

Treasures of Central Europe

Germany • Czech Republic • Hungary • Austria



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.



Salzburg escaped much of the bombing of World War II and remains an important example of Baroque architecture and city planning.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 12 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms
- Complete European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time bilingual EF Tour Director
- 6 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides:
Berlin • Prague • Budapest
Vienna • Munich • Heidelberg
- 1 sightseeing tour led by your tour director: Dresden
- 3 EF walking tours:
Prague • Budapest • Munich
- 2 EF orientation tours:
Vienna • Salzburg
- 8 visits to special attractions:
Checkpoint Charlie Museum • Zwinger Museum
St. Vitus Cathedral • Budapest Basilica
Matthias Church • Schönbrunn Palace • Dachau
Heidelberg Castle wine barrel

OPTIONAL:

- Potsdam
- Danube Bend
- Neckar Valley (seasonal)

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Germany • Spend the night flying across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Berlin

Arrival in Berlin • Touch down in the capital of reunified Germany. It took nearly a decade, from 1989 to 1999, to move the former capital of Bonn to the slowly reconstructed Berlin. Since the Berlin Wall came down in late 1989, the city has continued to evolve into a thriving metropolis. One place to easily recognize Berlin's emergence is in Potsdamer Platz. This area filled with cafés and restaurants, was a hub for artists and poets prior to World War II, which destroyed most of it. Today, Potsdamer Platz once again bustles, thanks in part to the sprawling Sony Center, as well as DaimlerCity, which boasts an observation deck with the continent's fastest elevator. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your bilingual EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay. A private motorcoach takes you to your comfortable hotel for check-in.

Day 3 Berlin

Guided sightseeing of Berlin • Ride past the Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche (left unrestored as a reminder of the ravages of war) and down the glittery Kurfürstendamm, Berlin's liveliest street. Pass the Rathaus Schöneberg, where 1.5 million West Berliners flocked to hear President Kennedy's famous *"Ich bin ein Berliner"* speech in 1963. On your way to the Eastern sector, pass the Reichstag, former seat

of the parliaments of the German Empire and the Weimar Republic. Arrive at the Brandenburg Gate, once the symbol of the undeclared Cold War and now the symbol of a reunited Berlin. It was at this gate that the famous images of East and West Berliners dancing atop the crumbling Berlin Wall were filmed and broadcast around the world. As you see where the Berlin Wall actually stood, imagine the bleak watchtowers and piercing spotlights that guarded "the border" until November 1989. Journey down Unter den Linden, once considered one of the world's most elegant boulevards.

Visit to the Checkpoint Charlie Museum • On the site where Checkpoint Charlie once guarded the border between East and West Germany, you'll visit a museum devoted to the era of the Berlin Wall. Inspect the "escape cars" once used to cross the border. See if you can find the secret compartment where escapees hid. Then view a photo exhibit that evocatively portrays the 30-year separation of East and West Germany, reunified in 1989.

Optional excursion to Potsdam • Take a guided journey to Potsdam, the pride and joy of former East Germany. It was here that American, British and Soviet leaders drew up preliminary plans for the postwar administration of Germany at the Potsdam Conference in 1945. Potsdam was also the royal playground of Frederick the Great, king of Prussia. As you tour the city, you'll set eyes on the baroque palaces, pavilions and well-groomed gardens of his royal residence. The emperor lavished his fortune on the Brandenburg Gate



Learn before you go
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(1770) and several palaces, including Sans Souci Palace (1745-47) and the New Palace (1763-69). Your excursion includes entrance to either Sans Souci or Cecilienhof.

Day 4 Berlin • Prague

Transfer via tour director-led sightseeing of Dresden and the Zwinger Museum •

Travel by way of Dresden, once considered by many to be the most beautiful city in the world. Pass the renovated Semper Opera House, and a statue of Martin Luther. You'll also visit the magnificent Zwinger Palace. Destroyed by the Allies' infamous Dresden firebombing in 1945, the palace was later rebuilt and remains one of the most impressive examples of baroque architecture in Eastern Europe. Inside the palace, pause before the works of such luminaries as Raphael, Dürer and Titian as you stroll through the Old Masters' Gallery.

Arrival in Prague • Encounter the legendary beauty of Prague, former capital of the Holy Roman Empire.

Day 5 Prague

Guided sightseeing of Prague • Your tour begins at the celebrated Prague Castle (Hradcany). In the castle's courtyard, you'll visit the magnificent St. Vitus Cathedral, which took more than 600 years to complete. On the nearby Golden Lane, royal alchemists once labored (unsuccessfully) to turn lead into gold. More recently, on the same street, Franz Kafka turned his angst into some of the 20th century's finest fiction. You'll also stroll through the quaint, cobbled streets of the Mala Strana, the backdrop for Milos Forman's *Amadeus*. Cross the Charles Bridge, adorned with 30 beautiful baroque statues, to the 13th-century Old Town (Stare Mesto). Here, you'll see Market Square, famous for its 15th-century astronomical clock. You'll also wander through Josefov, the traditional Jewish Quarter, home to the oldest synagogue in Europe (built in 1270).

EF walking tour of Prague • Follow the coronation route on our EF walking tour. As you stroll through the City of One Hundred Spires, pass the concert hall in which Mozart himself conducted the premiere of *Don Giovanni*.

Day 6 Prague • Budapest

Transfer to Budapest via Slovakia • Continue on to Budapest, capital of Hungary. At the heart of the Carpathian Basin and flecked with natural thermal springs, Budapest has at-

tracted nomadic cultures from across Europe for centuries. The Danube River actually divides into two cities: the old city of Buda and the "newer" city of Pest.

Day 7 Budapest

Guided sightseeing of Budapest • Journey up Castle Hill for a look at the Royal Palace, former home of the Hungarian monarchs. The castle has witnessed several invasions—the most recent occurred during WWII. Look for bullet holes in the outer walls, blasted by Russian tanks during the 1956 uprising. Visit the 13th-century Matthias Church, famous as the site of several coronations and for its colorful tiled roof. You'll also pass the Hungarian Parliament, modeled on London's Houses of Parliament.

EF walking tour of Budapest • Our EF walking tour takes you past the Parliament and to the Fishermen's Bastion for a wonderful panoramic view of Hungary's capital. Hungary played a key role in the democratization of Eastern Europe.

Optional Danube Bend • Join an optional half-day excursion to the village of Szentendre, where narrow cobblestoned streets wind their way around red-roofed houses and brightly-colored shops, or, if open for the season, step back into the 19th century at the Skanzen outdoor museum. Here, re-creations of peasant life and folk architecture are displayed for modern interpretation. Take a seasonal cruise on the Danube, where Roman forts and baroque palaces sit peacefully along the banks of the river.

Day 8 Budapest • Vienna

Arrival in Vienna • Follow the waltzing Danube as you arrive in Imperial Vienna.

Vienna Orientation Tour • Welcome to the lovely capital of Austria. Pass the city's world-famous Opera House and the 450-foot-high, Gothic St. Stephen's Cathedral, a venerable symbol of the city. Also see the Sacher Hotel—the esteemed chocolate Sachertorte was invented here, by order of Prince Metternich.

Day 9 Vienna

Guided sightseeing of Vienna • The residence of the imperial court for six centuries, Vienna is marked with the seal of the Hapsburgs, a family who once ruled over half of Europe. In-depth sightseeing takes you down the Ring, a series of wide boulevards commissioned by Emperor Franz Josef in 1857. Ride past the Parliament, the flower-adorned Rathaus (Town Hall), and the Hofburg, where the powerful Hapsburg dynasty ruled until 1918.

Visit to Schönbrunn Palace • You'll also visit beautiful Schönbrunn Palace, where Marie Antoinette (the most famous of Empress Maria Theresa's 16 children) spent her childhood. When the 6-year-old Mozart played for the empress inside the palace, he told Marie Antoinette, "I'll marry you when I'm grown up!" After viewing the elegant interior, stroll through the palace's beautifully landscaped gardens.

Day 10 Vienna • Munich

Salzburg Orientation Tour • Orient yourself with Salzburg, a town known for its cobblestone streets and famous cafés. You might also

The world-famous Vienna Boys' Choir sings in the Hofburg Palace chapel every Sunday.



recognize Salzburg as the backdrop for *The Sound of Music*. Journey through the Old Town and past the Residenz, once home to Salzburg's prince-bishops. Walk by the birthplace of Mozart. The famed composer is buried in an unmarked pauper's grave somewhere outside of Vienna.

Arrival in Munich • Experience the *Gemütlichkeit* of Munich, capital of Bavaria and site of the legendary Oktoberfest. "Munich" derives from the city's German name, München (little monk), so named because the original settlement bordered a monastery.

Day 11 Munich

Guided sightseeing of Munich • Your guided tour takes you past the Olympic Stadium, BMW's headquarters and the fashionable Schwabing district. You'll also pass the Residenz (once home to the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria), the Deutsches Museum, the university, and the Alte Pinakothek. Your tour concludes at Marienplatz, Munich's medieval heart, home of the city's famed Glockenspiel.

Excursion to Dachau • Visit Dachau, a WWII Nazi concentration camp built in 1935 and liberated by the Allies in April 1945. It now serves as a memorial museum.

EF walking tour of Munich • Stroll through the very heart of Munich as you pass the twin copper domes of the Frauenkirche, a long-

standing symbol of the city. Arrive at Marienplatz, once the intersection of medieval trade routes. Here you can see the neo-Gothic Rathaus and the golden Mariensäule, a monument commemorating Munich's divine salvation from rampaging Swedish hordes. Then continue past the Hofbräuhaus, Munich's most famous beer hall. On a good day, almost 30,000 liters of beer are sold here.

Day 12 Munich • Heidelberg

Transfer to Heidelberg • Travel to romantic Heidelberg, one of the most lovely and beloved towns in Germany.

Day 13 Heidelberg

Guided sightseeing of Heidelberg • Become acquainted with Germany's oldest university city—the university dates back to 1386. See Heidelberg's 700-year-old *Schloss* (palace) and its famous *Fass* (wine barrel), the world's largest. From the castle's historic battlements, you'll enjoy a stunning view of the Neckar Valley, where *Homo heidelbergensis* roamed 500,000 years ago. You'll also see the town's medieval streets and Marktplatz, where witches were once burned at the stake. Writers as diverse as Mark Twain (who once floated down the Neckar on a raft) and Goethe (who was inspired by the view from the *Schloss*) have long praised Heidelberg's enduring beauty.

Optional excursion to the Neckar Valley •

Enjoy a meandering cruise along the Neckar River, where you'll drink in commanding views of the many Old World castles that perch along the riverbank. The excursion includes a visit to 13th-century Dilsberg Fortress. Set on a high hill overlooking the Valley, Dilsberg was once the most powerful fortress in the region as well as a favorite site of Mark Twain.

Day 14 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to Frankfurt, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.