

Above & Beyond TRAVEL

“Travels along the Danube” (Prague, Vienna, Bratislava & Budapest) Private small group

September 25th- October 5th 2020 (10 days)
Price per person based on double occupancy \$3211 (single
supplement \$402 add'l)

Optional additional night in Budapest \$120pp
Deposit required: \$500 per person



September 26: Prague for 3 nights

Meet & greet private transfer from airport to hotel

Double or twin rooms river or city view, breakfast & taxes included at Hotel Charles Bridge Palace****

Porterage included

Centrally located in Prague 1, Charles Bridge Palace is just 150 m from the famous Charles Bridge and a 10-minute walk to the Old Town Square. The hotel serves a rich buffet breakfast.

Elegantly decorated rooms are air-conditioned and come with a minibar, flat-screen TV with satellite channels and a marble tiled bathroom. Rooms overlook the Vltava River, Prague castle or hotel's secluded courtyard.

Wi-Fi is available throughout the Charles Bridge Palace and is free of charge. The hotel can organise rental cars, laundry services, tours and provides a concierge service.

Other attractions close by are the Wenceslas Square, 1 km away, the National Theatre, 1 tram stop away, and the Old Jewish Cemetery which is 400 m away. The Staroměstská Metro Station and a variety of restaurants and bars can be reached in a 5-minute walk.

<https://www.charlesbridgepalace.com/>

Welcome dinner at Plzenska restaurant

Plzenska Restaurant in Prague is situated inside one of Europe's finest Art Nouveau buildings, the stunning Municipal House.

Plzenska Restaurant, named after the famous Czech beer Pilsner Urquell, presents classic Czech cuisine in a typical beer hall atmosphere.

As this is Municipal House, the interior of the restaurant is exquisite, with magnificent Art Nouveau features from the days of the First Republic, including ceramic mosaics, a golden clock and beautifully restored furniture by Sadílek. The decorative windows are all original.

The food at Plzenska is good, traditional Czech cuisine, prepared and presented with style. For a true taste of hearty Czech fare, we recommend the chef's specials like the Spicy Grilled Marinated Spare Ribs, the Roasted Pork Joint and the Bohemian Duck. The latter is served with typical red cabbage and dumplings.

There are other classic Czech dishes to choose from too, like smoked pork, sausages, goulash and fillet stroganoff, plus juicy wild boar medallions, brushed with cranberry sauce and served with potato pancakes - delicious!

includes

3 drinks - wine, beer or soft

3 course meal

coffee and desert

September 27

Prague Old and New Town at 9:30 am – walking tour - including the Jewish Quarter

Duration about 3 hours

Your English speaking guide will take you on a walking tour of the **Prague Old and New Town**.

You will see the **Wenceslas Square** with the equestrian statue of our patron saint **St. Wenceslas**, the "the **Church of our lady of the snows** - the tallest church in the city, the **Franciscan Garden**, the oldest building of the **Charles University "Karolinum"**, founded in 1348, the **Old Town Square** with the statue of **Jan Hus** - our religious reformer, view the **Estates Theater** where **Mozart** performed his famous "Don Giovanni", the **Astronomical Clock** and go up the tower for a magnificent view - there is an elevator. Go through the **Jewish Quarter**, visiting the **Old New Synagogue**, the **Klaus**, **Spanish**, **Maisl** and **Pinkas** Synagogues and the **Old Jewish Cemetery**.

Rest of the day at leisure.

September 28

Private Walking Tour: Prague Castle Area

Duration of tour: 3 hours

You will walk through this Hradčany district visiting the **Loreta** the church with the **Casa Santa** and the **Black Madonna**, the **Strahov monastery** with it's famous baroque library, walk past the **Archbishops Palace** and other interesting areas along the way to the castle. This area was first settled in the ninth century and was the home of our kings and queens for many years. Now it houses the office of the president of the Czech Republic, several museums, and more. You will go inside the **St. Vitus Cathedral**, view the resting places of our **St. Wenceslas** and St. John of Nepomuk and admire the beauty of this grandiose cathedral. Then we go inside the **Royal Palace** where the, for its time unusually large, Wladislav Hall is located. It is 62 m long (186 feet), 16 m wide (48 feet) and 13 m high (39 feet) without any center support! Among other festive purposes, it is the inauguration hall of our presidents today.

Rest of the day at leisure



September 29: Vienna for 2 nights

Private transfer from Prague to Vienna

Driving time 3h30 minutes

Double or twin rooms, breakfast & taxes included at Hotel K&K Palais****

Porterage included

The K+K Palais Hotel is situated in the quiet part of the Vienna's city centre, enjoying close proximity to St Stephen's Cathedral, the Vienna Airport Lines Bus Stop and many major sights, theatres and shopping opportunities.

Behind a stylish, historic façade, an elegant hotel of great sophistication and modern luxury awaits you. It is located in a historical building that used to be Emperor Francis Joseph's city residence. All rooms are fully air-conditioned.

As all K+K Hotels, the Palais Hotel is a luxurious boutique hotel offering state-of-the-art amenities and the personal service of a highly motivated staff. Free WiFi is provided throughout the property.

The K+K Palais enjoys a convenient location and easy access to the public transport. Metro stops on the U1, U2 and U4 lines are within 300 metres' reach. Rotenturmstraße and Kärntnerstraße are near the hotel.

https://www.kkhotels.com/de/products/kk-palais-hotel-vienna/?utm_source=GoogleMyBusiness&utm_medium=ButtonWebsite&utm_campaign=GoogleMyBusinessReferral

3 hour private foodie tour

This weekday walk will usually start by sampling regional specialties in a local *Greislerei*: a modern take on a dry-goods mercantile and delicatessen that offers everything from gourmet mustards and pestos to honey and cordials. The small-batch products, often organic and always high quality, are sourced primarily from local farms and focus on traditional methods and husbandry. Among the succulent canned fruits, jars of pickled vegetables, and bottles of fragrant oils and vinegars, you'll experience the ingredients that elevate Austrian cooking to world-class heights.

Our next visits vary from tour to tour depending on our appetites. Stops may include: a local cheese specialty shop to sample a variety of cheeses, from silky and mild to full and complex; savory snacks or sausages at a local cafe; a bakery for hearty breads or pastries; or a street food stand, to relish hearty favorites like *Leberkäse*—a type of sausage popular throughout Europe's German-speaking nations. While walking the sidewalks of Vienna, we'll develop a sense of the role that gastronomy plays in the everyday lives of Austrians and of the important relationship between a city and its gastronomic traditions.

We'll finish our sensory tour with a sweet treat in a local pastry shop or cafe, getting a glimpse of the cafe culture for which Vienna is known. It is not uncommon for patrons to buy a *Wiener Melange* - coffee with milk foam - and then simply spend the whole day in the coffeehouse. As gathering places for Vienna's intelligentsia, cafes have historically served as a *mise en scene* for political, artistic, and social movements. As our walk draws to a close, we'll consider the importance of these intellectual gathering places and how they provide a *tableaux* of Viennese *Gemütlichkeit* - that famed coziness.

At the end of this walk, we'll have a greater understanding of how the contemporary food scene in the city converges with tradition and how culinary craftsmanship has shaped the way of life—and we will have indulged in true Viennese fashion.

September 30

4 hour private guided tour of Vienna with a bus and a guide and entrance fees included

First of all you drive along the famous **Ring boulevard**. Marvel at the impressive **buildings** in the style of Historism constructed under **Emperor Franz Josef**, like the **State Opera House**, the **Museum of Fine Art**, the **Parliament**, the **City Hall**, the **Court Theatre** and the University. On **Heroe's Square** you can take pictures of the vast complex of the **Imperial Palace**. The former residence of the **Habsburgs** boasts over 2.600 rooms!

Leaving the city center you get to the **Danube** area with the **United Nations buildings** and the **Danube Tower**. You also visit the nearby **Prater amusement park** with the world-famous **Giant Ferris Wheel**.

On the way to the Schönbrunn Palace you pass other sights like the **City Park** with the famous golden **statue of Johann Strauss**, **St. Charles' church** and the **concert hall of the Musikverein**.

The visit of **Schoenbrunn Palace and grounds** (Unesco World Heritage) is another highlight of this tour. The former **summer residence of the Habsburgs** is Austria's number one tourist attraction. Take your time to marvel at the impressive palace and visit the amazing gardens. **Skip the line:** If you would like to include a private guided tour of the showrooms we will reserve your tickets in advance, so you don't have to wait in line.



October 1: Bratislava for 2 nights

2 hour private guided tour of Belvedere Museum with transportation and entrance fees included

Meet your **private, fully-licensed guide** and let him take you through the **highlights of the Belvedere Palace**. These highlights include the paintings by **Klimt, Schiele and many other Austrian and international artists**, but also include some architectural and decoration details of the palace itself.

Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele being the two most famous 19th century Austrian painters, the majority of the focus will be on their masterpieces, such as Klimt's ***The Kiss and Judith and the Head of Holofernes***, and Schiele's portraits. As you discover these major artworks, your guide will also introduce you to other fascinating curiosities and artists such as **Franz Xaver Messerschmidt or Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller**.

Private transfer from Vienna to Bratislava with a 2 hour stop at Liechtenstein Castle and 1 hour guided tour.

But the intervening period saw the castle reach its full impressive extent and has remained a Liechtenstein property ever since. Under Prince Johann II it was reconstructed as a museum exhibiting sculptures and valuable reliefs from his collection. The architects were scrupulous in preserving and enhancing the castle's original Romanesque fabric, with such success that today it's regarded as one of the rarest and best-preserved examples of a secular Romanesque building in Europe. And for once one can believe the architectural hype. Great beamed ceilings, thick original walls, delicately capped towers, the ornamental variety of its highly elevated interior spaces divided by restful softly rounded arches, the sensuous drama of the castle's pillared main staircase. The castle's chapel is a particular delight, a consecrated, still-functioning space built by Liechtenstein's founder in 1130, with special significance thanks to a red chalk image, or 'sanguine,' depicting the Crucifixion with Mary and St John.

5 double or twin rooms, breakfast & taxes included at Radisson Blu Carlton****

Porterage included

Set in a historic building dating back to the 13th century, Radisson Blu Carlton Hotel is located directly in the city centre of Bratislava. It offers spacious and elegant rooms with heated bathroom floors, as well as free WiFi in the entire hotel.

Guests can enjoy traditional Bratislava cuisine in the restaurant, including seasonal vegetables and herbs, fresh fish, as well as meat from local farmers. During summer, the restaurant features an outdoor terrace where you can enjoy views of the National Opera and Hviezdoslav Square.

The Radisson Blu Carlton's legendary Mirror Bar is a popular meeting place offering cocktails and snacks. The Carlton Hotel is close to Bratislava's attractive shopping areas and elegant restaurants. The Slovak National Theatre and the Philharmonic Orchestra are only a few steps away.

Only 30 minutes by car from Vienna Airport and 10 minutes from Bratislava Airport, Radisson Blu Hotel is also very close to business centres such as Tower 115, the Apollo Business Centre, and Bratislava CBC Tower.

<https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-bratislava-carlton?cid=a:se+b:gmb+c:emea+i:local+e:rdb+d:cese+h:BTSZH>

October 2

Half day private guided tour to Bratislava

Entrance fees to Bratislava castle and St Martin's cathedral included

First you pay a visit to the newly-restored Bratislava Castle. Towering over the Danube river it is the city's emblem and offers postcard-views of Bratislava. Next to the castle you also see the parliament of Slovakia.

Afterwards you visit the lively old town below the castle. Your guide shows you the highlights, including Michael's Gate, the Slovak national theatre, the Academia Istropolitana, the old Town Hall and of course the cathedral of St. Martin. You also see the baroque Palfy palace, where Mozart performed at the age of six, as well as the de Pauli's palace. Franz Liszt gave his break-through concert there when he was only nine years old.



October 3: Budapest for 2 nights

Private transfer from Bratislava to Budapest

Driving time 2 hours

5 double or twin rooms, breakfast & taxes included at Hotel Memories Old Town****

Porterage included

Situated in Budapest, a 5-minute walk from the Great Market Hall, Hotel Memories OldTown offers its own bistro and a fitness centre.

At the hotel, the rooms feature hand-made, industrial or vintage furniture. All units have a desk, a flat-screen smart cable TV and a private bathroom with a hairdryer, a cosmetic mirror and free toiletries.

Guest rooms at Hotel Memories OldTown feature air conditioning, a Nespresso coffee machine, a kettle and a wardrobe.

Guests can enjoy rich buffet or a la carte breakfast from fresh ingredients purchased from selected producers and suppliers, and savor Hungarian cuisine dishes for dinner. Hotel Memories OldTown offers a wellness centre with a Finnish sauna, a hot tub, fitness corner and a massage room.

Cycling is among the activities that guests can enjoy near Hotel Memories OldTown.

<https://hotelmemoires.hu/>

time at leisure for lunch

3 hour private guided tour of Budapest Buda side by motor coach in the afternoon

We will begin our tour with panoramic views over the Danube, in Buda's Castle District. We'll explore this medieval area and visit sites such as Fisherman's Bastion, Matthias Church (please note on weekends we will view from the exterior due to other events and liturgical services), and the Buda Castle complex. We'll discuss the Hungarian monarchy and the strategic and symbolic importance of this historic district from a fitting vantage point.

October 4

Morning Half day private guided tour of Budapest Pest side (walking tour)

Walk through the Jewish Quarter, tracing the development of Jewish culture in the city from the Middle Ages to WW2 to the present. We'll discuss the vibrant Jewish community and the contemporary scene in the 7th district today as we visit the Great Synagogue (please note on Saturdays we will view from the exterior due to venue closures). We'll soak up the varying Pest architectural styles, from Art Nouveau to Baroque to the Neoclassical St. Stephen's Basilica. We will touch upon post-communist contemporary life in the city and discuss the future potential of this constantly modernizing hub.

Dinner Cruise on the Danube at 7 pm (round-trip transfer by bus included)

Pannonia Gastroboat - Hungarian gourmet dinner and cruising by Rupichef

Duration of tour: 1 hr 30 mins

Experience the best of Hungarian cuisine as you float down the Danube River on a 3-hour dinner cruise. Set aboard a vintage restaurant ship, the evening tour offers unbeatable views of Budapest's main attractions from the water. With maximum twenty passengers on board the boat, your 5-course meal is sure to be an intimate and memorable one.

October 5

Private transfer from hotel to Budapest airport