



Day 1: Fly to Hungary

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Budapest.

Day 2: Budapest

Arrive in Budapest: Welcome to Budapest. At the heart of the Carpathian Basin and flecked with natural thermal springs, the Hungarian capital has attracted nomadic cultures from across Europe for centuries. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore on your own.

Explore Budapest: On a walking tour of Budapest, you'll see feats of architecture at the Hungarian Parliament and the Fisherman's Bastion. At the latter, you'll enjoy panoramic views of the capital of Hungary, which played a key role in the democratization of Eastern Europe.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner with your group.

Day 3: Budapest

Sightseeing tour of Budapest: Begin your tour at Heroes' Square, where you will see statues of famous Hungarian personalities. Drive down Andrássy Boulevard, past the State Opera House to the Hungarian Parliament, modeled on London's Houses of Parliament. Journey up Castle Hill and visit Matthias Church, famous for its colorful tiled roof. Your tour ends with a stop on Gellért Hill, where you can catch some of the city's best views.

Danube evening cruise: Enjoy a cruise along the historic Danube River this evening. Absorb the enchanting history of this legendary area as you hear about its Hungarian past, including its kings, queens, poets, and inventors. Cap off your memorable evening listening to the Blue Danube Waltz.

Day 4: Budapest | Kraków

Travel via the Tatra Mountains to Kraków: Marvel at the breathtaking views of the Tatra Mountains as you cross the border between Poland and Slovakia and continue on to Kraków, Poland's former capital.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner with your group as you reflect on the day's events.

Day 5: Kraków

Sightseeing tour of Kraków: Set out on a guided tour of Kraków, the only major city in Poland to escape devastation during WWII. Visit Wawel Hill, perched high above the Vistula River, and Wawel Cathedral, where kings were crowned and Pope John Paul II once served as archbishop. Stroll through Główny Square, passing Sukiennice Cloth Hall and the Jagiellonian University, then visit a former Jewish ghetto.

📍 **Salt mines:** Go beneath the surface on this optional half-day guided excursion to a subterranean labyrinth of giant caverns, underground lakes, and chapels. After descending into the earth on a mining elevator, walk down stairs and through some of the 20 chambers where miners and artists have crafted salt sculptures and bas reliefs. (Due to uneven terrain, dark tunnels, and cold air in the mines, sturdy shoes and warm clothes are recommended.)

Day 6: Kraków

Auschwitz-Birkenau: From 1940 to 1945, between 1.1 and 1.5 million people died at the Auschwitz and Birkenau death camps. The camp has since been turned into a memorial, and a walk through its halls and barracks serves as a chilling reminder of the atrocities that occurred here. Observe a moment of remembrance for the 6 million victims of the Holocaust.

Day 7: Kraków | Prague

Travel to Prague: Continue on to Prague.

Walking tour of Prague: As you stroll through the City of One Hundred Spires on a walking tour, pass the concert hall in which Mozart conducted the premiere of Don Giovanni, the Old Town Square, and the Astronomical Clock.

Day 8: Prague

Sightseeing tour of Prague: Prague gracefully balances the classical features of old Europe with a lively, Bohemian spirit. On your sightseeing tour, step inside the magnificent St. Vitus Cathedral in the courtyard of Prague Castle, before making your way by the 11 historical buildings that mark the Golden Lane. Cross the Charles Bridge and walk through Market Square, best known for its 15th-century astronomical clock.

Day 9: Prague

Free time in Prague: Navigate medieval bridges and cobblestone alleyways as you take Prague at your own pace. You might choose to visit Vyšehrad Castle, believed to be the site of the first permanent settlement in the area.

📍 **Kutná Hora:** Opt for an excursion to Kutná Hora, famous in history for its silver mines. Though the mines have been abandoned for over two centuries, the city today offers a rich collection of sights, including the incredible Sedlec Ossuary.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner with your group.

Day 10: Depart for home

Arrive at the airport and check in for your return flight home.

📍 2-DAY PROGRAM EXTENSION

Days 10-11: Vienna

Travel to Vienna: Residence of the imperial court for six centuries, Vienna is marked with the seal of the Habsburgs, a family who ruled over half of Europe.

Wiener Schnitzel dinner: On day 10, sit down with your tour group and enjoy this hearty regional dish. A delicious Viennese meal enjoyed for centuries, Wiener Schnitzel is typically fried veal or pork with traditional seasonings.

Sightseeing tour of Vienna: Your sightseeing tour takes you down the Ring, a series of wide boulevards commissioned by Emperor Franz Josef in 1857. Ride past the Parliament, the flower-adorned City Hall, and the Hofburg, where the Habsburg dynasty prevailed.

Schönbrunn Palace: See where Marie Antoinette spent her childhood at the Schönbrunn Palace. After viewing the elegant interior, stroll through the palace's beautifully landscaped gardens.

📍 **Classical Viennese Concert:** Enjoy an evening of classical music in one of Vienna's many traditional concert halls. Famed musicians such as Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Strauss, Brahms, and Schubert all have ties to the Austrian capital.

Day 12: Depart for home