



Highlights of CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

5-country tour starting in FRANKFURT and ending in BERLIN.
GERMANY - AUSTRIA - HUNGARY - SLOVAKIA - POLAND – GERMANY

Frankfurt in / Berlin out – 16 days

Your Routing:

**FRANKFURT - WUERZBURG - NUREMBERG - MUNICH - BERCHTESGADEN -
MELK - VIENNA - GYÖR - BUDAPEST – BANSKA BYSTRICA - KRAKOW -
CZESTOCHOWA - WARSAW - LODZ - POZNAN - SWIEBODZIEN -
BERLIN & POTSDAM.....**

Your day by day itinerary

DAY 01: Arrive at FRANKFURT Airport, Germany.

A warm welcome awaits all group members upon arrival Frankfurt Airport by your Tour Director and motor coach driver, both with you from now on throughout your Central & Eastern European Tour. - A brief orientation drive will lead you first to Frankfurt's financial district which ranks among the world's leading financial centers. Also known as the main hub for Germany's flag carrier Lufthansa, largest airline in Europe. Over 4 Mio. visitors come to Frankfurt every year of which more than 400.000 tourists arrived from the United States. - Your motor coach drive will lead you to the "Roemer", a complex of medieval buildings and one of the city's most important landmarks. Dominated by the church St. Nicholas and its old City Hall, this complex of quaint buildings has been continuously extended over the years. - Enjoy some leisure time and experience here a part of Frankfurt's eventful history before your motor coach driver takes you to your hotel. - Toward evening join your fellow travelling companions and Tour Director for a welcome reception and for a special dinner at the hotel.

(D/ 1 night)



DAY 02: Depart **FRANKFURT** today for **MUNICH** by way of **WUERZBURG** and **NUREMBERG**.

Your morning route takes you first to the old university town of Wuerzburg with beginnings of the 4th and 5th C and Christianized by the Irish monk Kilian during the 7th C. - Some later, the first diocese was founded by Saint Boniface in 742. - You will have a closer look at the Baroque Residence of Wuerzburg with its foundations of 1720, today an UNESCO World Heritage site. - You will be also impressed by the mighty Fortress Marienberg and its old bridge, a castle being used as the residence of the former prince-bishops in 1253. - Now, spend some time at leisure near the Cathedral and City Hall and leave then for Nuremberg for our next stop. - This Bavarian city was founded about 1.000 year ago and used to be called the capital of the Holy Roman Empire. - During the 14th C, Nuremberg became an important city of the Empire where newly elected Kings of Germany must hold their first Imperial Diet, a formal deliberative assembly. - Today, Nuremberg is still associated with the International Military Tribunal just after WW II when German officials involved in the Holocaust and other war crimes were brought here. - You will be visiting the Romanesque St. Sebaldus Church of the early 13th C and is of great importance to the city. The two towers were added in the 15th C and during the last war this church has suffered serious damage and was subsequently reconstructed. The interior will show you beautiful stained glasses and the original Shrine of St. Sebaldus, a 16th C masterpiece of Peter Vischer and his sons. - Following this stop, we continue with our drive by crossing the Danube river and shall arrive at Munich, the capital of Bavaria. – Before dinner this evening be invited for a welcome reception at the lobby hotel bar.

(B & D/ 2 nights)





DAY 03: Morning City Sightseeing – afternoon excursion to BERCHTESGADEN and to its historic "EAGLE'S NEST".

The morning city tour of Munich will show you first the lively center and its fascinating Baroque architecture. At the neo-Gothic City Hall you may listen to its chimes which sound several times a day. - Nearby Munich's landmark the Church Of Our Lady, an imposing late Gothic brick-built cathedral. - You will view the Residence, a complex of buildings dating back from the 16th to the 19th C. - We will pass the former Olympic ground and its huge stadium that holds up to 80.000 visitors. - We stop at Nymphenburg Palace, surrounded by a beautiful park to visit its famous Horse Carriage Museum. Admire here a coronation coach of Emperor Karl VII and a magnificent collection of splendid coaches, incomparable carts and sedan-chairs used by the former Royal Wittelsbach family during the 18th and 19th C including by Bavarian King Ludwig II.





Following lunch time around noon we shall leave for an excursion to the beautiful town of Berchtesgaden, founded in the early 12th C, dominated by the Royal Villa on a slope and former summer residence of the Bavarian kings. - See its beautiful facade painted houses, arcades with frescos and the market square showing a remarkable fountain of the 17th C. - Nearby, the Abbey Church built by the Augustine monks displaying an attractive Gothic Chancel of the late 13th C and impressive tombstones. - Time is yours now to stroll around before we take you on a little train ride into the depths of a salt mine mountain where the mine is presented in a mystical way of light, colour and salt. The mirror lake, almost 500 ft below the surface, welcomes you into a meditative environment. From here, you will cross the water by a boat which takes you to the opposite shore under an artificial sky of growing salt crystals, mirrored in the surface of the lake. - Then, a side trip by motor coach will lead you to "Obersalzberg", better known as the location of Hitler's mountain residence "Berghof". We stop at the foot of that hill and visit an information center which reminds the public of Hitler and his Nazi regime. - Afterwards, we follow the road up to its Kehlstein-Haus, also called "The Eagle's Nest", built on a mountain peak with an altitude of about 6.000 ft. This "teahouse", actually "D-Haus" ("Diplomatic Reception House") was serving as a retreat and as a place for Hitler to entertain his visiting dignitaries. - To reach this site, a large elevator surfaced with polished brass, Venetian mirrors and green leather takes you up the last 400 ft to its main reception room, dominated by a fireplace of red Italian marble, presented as a gift by Mussolini. - Enjoy a leisurely break at the mountain top restaurant and its beautiful panorama. - To allow more time today for sightseeing, dinner will be taken back en route before we return this evening a little bit later to our hotel in Munich for overnight. (B & D)





DAY 04: Leaving hotel and BAVARIA for **VIENNA** by way of **MELK** in **AUSTRIA**.

Your tour leads east this morning while leaving Bavaria and cross border into Austria. - We stop at small town Melk, dominated by an impressive Benedictine Abbey, founded during the late 11th C. – Majestically overlooking the Danube river, today's Baroque abbey was built between 1702 and 1736 and is one of the world's most famous monastic sites. - See its Abbey church with a magnificent frescoed ceiling and an outstanding library with countless medieval manuscripts. - Following this stop, we continue our drive and toward evening arriving at Vienna, capital of Austria, ruled by the former Habsburg Emperors and imperial city for more than six centuries. - Be invited for a welcome cocktail before we join for a fine dinner this evening at the hotel. (B & D/ 2 nights)





DAY 05: VIENNA.

Your morning sightseeing tour takes you first to spectacular Schoenbrunn Palace, modified to its present structure by former Empress Maria Theresia and summer residence of Austria's emperors. - You will be visiting some selected apartments of over a thousand that show a variety of sumptuously furnished rooms in Baroque and Rococo style, magnificent chandeliers, beautiful paintings and fine lacquer-works from Asia. You will see its Hall of Mirrors, where small boy Mozart has played for the Empress – and or other apartments depending on various inside tours you are temporal scheduled. - Later, you may enjoy from its outside a superb view from the monument "Gloriette" down to its park, gardens, statues and gracious fountains before we return to the city center for a lunch break. - Then your motor coach drive takes you on the "Ring" to view great buildings such as the Opera House, the Monument of Maria Theresia, the Parliament and City Hall, its former imperial palace Hofburg and home of the famous Spanish Riding School. - Time is left to visit St. Stephen's Cathedral, built in Romanesque style during the 14th C which displays a fine altarpiece of the 15th C and impressive busts of Saints including the one of St. Stephan. - The rest of the afternoon is at your disposal and why not relax at one of the coffee houses to try perhaps a piece of famous "Sacher-Torte". - This evening be invited for a special dinner including the wine and local entertainment at a typical restaurant called "Heurigen" in the wine village of Grinzing. (B & D)





DAY 06: VIENNA - GYÖR - BUDAPEST, Hungary.

Leaving Vienna this morning and crossing border to Hungary for a stop in the city of Gyöer, founded by the Romans which has retained much of its medieval and Baroque-style charm, also called the "City of Balconies" for its gracious railed windows. - You will have a closer look at a mix of well-preserved Baroque architecture and narrow streets which some lead up to the historical Chapter Hill, site of the Episcopal Cathedral of the 11th C. - On the eastern side you may view fine Baroque houses line streets and the square featuring a 18th C Baroque Carmelite church and fortifications of the 16th C to repel the Turks. - Enjoy some time here on your own before we continue our journey through the Danube region by way of gentle hills, dotted with orchards and vineyards. - During the later afternoon arrive at Budapest, Hungary's cultural capital often referred to as the "Paris of the East". - This evening join us for a cocktail and a wonderful dinner cruise on the Danube River to enjoy beautiful views of the city's illuminated architecture. (B & D/ 2 nights)

DAY 07: BUDAPEST.

Your guided sightseeing tour of Buda and Pest features the main sights as the castle district with its 13th C Gothic Church Matthias, one of Buda's most notable sights where the final Emperor Franz Joseph and his consort Elisabeth were crowned in 1867. - The Fishermen's Bastion, an unusual group of towers linked by a parapet wall overlooks the river and resembles a medieval castle and Romanesque cloisters. From here, a superb view encompasses both river banks.- In Pest you will see the Parliament Building that evokes the House of Parliament in London, the impressive State Opera House and its City Park. - Spend the rest of the day at leisure or explore Budapest on your own for its magnificent architecture, picturesque streets line with splendid examples of medieval houses and Baroque mansions. - Tonight enjoy a traditional Hungarian dinner with wine and Hungarian life music at the hotel. (B & D)



DAY 08: BUDAPEST – HIGH TATRAS - BANSKA BYSTRICA, Slovakia.

We leave the city of Budapest this morning and journey further north along the Danube and cross border to the Republic of Slovakia which became 1993 an independent country. - The route continues along the mighty High Tatras rising sharply from the valley up towards the highest peak in the Carpathians at a height of about 8.700 ft. This granite ridge is one of Europe's most picturesque landscapes. The foot of the slopes is covered with magnificent spruce forest and alpine pasture dotted with the occasional fir tree where chamois, marmots, wild boar and wolves still roam the Tatras. - Following a lunch break en route, a short side trip will take you to Banska Stiavnica, Slovakia's most fascinating old mining town in the former Kingdom of Hungary, proclaimed by the UNESCO to be a World Heritage site. - Far from major rail routes, this delightful town is dominated by two smaller castles and a bell tower. - Close to the historical Trinity Square we can see its remarkable Town Hall and a monumental plague column. - The open-air museum invites you to a short underground excursion in mines, dating back to the 17th C which are connected by more than 60 miles network of channels. - We then leave this interesting place and stop again at the smaller village of Hronsek to visit one of Slovakia's wooden churches, built around 1725. The only wooden church in Slovakia which exhibits Scandinavian architectural influence and can hold up to 1.100 visitors in an amphitheatre-style arrangement.

Afterwards, our route leads to Banska Bystrica, an earlier mining capital surrounded by wooden hills and mountains of mineral treasures. Arriving at the hotel, a welcome reception is waiting followed by a special local dinner tonight.

(B & D/ 1 night)





DAY 09: BANSKA BYSTRICA - KRAKOW, Poland.

Your journey continues this morning further north, still through Slovakia with a stop at small village of Ruzomberok, a former outpost of Christianity during the 16th C. Craftwork here has affiliated with agriculture, wood, shepherd, market and commercial tradition. - Following this stop, your route winds along hidden farms and old towns partly of medieval architecture and around noon arriving at Zakopane, border and gateway to Poland's most popular skiing area for our lunch break. – Afterwards it's on to the city of Krakow for overnight, known as one of Eastern Europe's finest medieval cities and home of a prestigious university. - Among its former students Karol Wojtyla who after being appointed Archbishop of Krakow was elected Pope John Paul II in 1978. – Before dinner tonight you are invited for a welcome reception at the lobby bar. (B & D/ 2 nights)





DAY10: KRAKOW.

After witnesses of 30 generations of Polish struggle for independence, the wheel of history spin in favour of Poles 1989. The workers' trade union "Solidarity" was given a chance to participate in the first free elections since World War II. In the streets of Krakow, protest demonstrations soon underwent metamorphoses, becoming election campaigns and a new generation of Poles discovered democracy and birth of an autonomous Poland. - So, join us now on a historic tour of Krakow where Polish kings were crowned and buried and see first the Wawel Hill which stands proudly between two bends of the Wisla river. Here, you will visit its worth-seeing 14th C Cathedral of Gothic architecture which remains a timeless witness of Poland's history and for a long time site of royal coronations and burials. - Also of much interest will be the Holy Cross Chapel and the Royal Tombs of former kings, princes and poets. Climb up the tower if you wish and enjoy a panoramic view of the city. – Afterwards, the sightseeing tour leads you to the old city center and to the Market Square, scene of countless historic events. You may listen here to the sound of trumpets coming every hour from one of the impressive towers of the red-brick Gothic-style Church of Our Lady. - Not far from here you will view the 14th C Cloth Hall, a sumptuous building with a yellow ochre frontage lined with arcaded galleries and supported on columns with carved capitals. - Not to be missed will be the Royal Palace of Renaissance architecture, to visit its first and second floor to admire a collection of weapons, portraits of the 16th and 17th C that once belonged to royal and noble families. You will enjoy its royal apartments consist of vast luxurious chambers providing an overview of several centuries in art and history. – Following a lunch break the afternoon is yours to do as you please. - If you wish you may now participate in an excursion to visit nearby Auschwitz, a sobering experience of a former concentration camp including a museum depicts the systematic extermination of millions of human beings. – This evening in Krakow you will enjoy a special dinner with wine at the hotel. (B & D)



DAY 11: KRAKOW - CZESTOCHOWA - WARSAW, Poland.

This morning leaving Krakow again and its outstanding wealth of architectural heritage and will enjoy today's further route and countryside dotted with a number of ruined castles. - Around noon we shall arrive at Czestochowa with a stop and for a lunch break. - This pilgrimage town became most famous for its Jasna Gora Monastery and was founded during the late 14th C. The inside of the Lady Chapel contains an exceptional highly venerated icon of the Black Virgin depicting a Madonna and Child, a masterpiece of an Italian artist that became subject of a religious cult dating back to the Middle Ages. Hundreds of thousand pilgrims are visiting this sacred place each year and in September the annual Polish-American-Festival takes place to admire the beauty of the Polish harvest tradition. – Following this impressive stop, our journey takes us some further north to stop once more for a break at Tomaszow Mazowiecki, a twin-sister town beautiful situated on the banks of three rivers and at the edge of a wide open area. - Then, our today's journey takes a good more hour drive to Warsaw, the capital of Poland. - Arriving at your hotel, time is left for freshen up before we meet again for a welcome reception and for dinner this evening. (B & D/ 2 nights)





DAY 12: WARSAW.

Razed to the ground during the Second World War, the old town of Warsaw has been rebuilt as an almost exact copy of its former appearance and has developed into a lively, bustling and modern metropolis, thanks to the gritty determination of the local people. - Your sightseeing tour starts with the Royal Palace and its apartments to see the Throne Room of former King Stanislas-Augustus, the Marble Room, State Chamber with allegorical statues and the Knights' Chamber with paintings illustrating Polish history. – We will view St. John's Cathedral, its Palace-on-the-Water and visit the old town market place, the city's most popular square. - Time at leisure which you may use for your lunch break at the Place of Culture and Science, a huge building of Russian architecture flanked by columns, splendid statues and provides a variety of shops, restaurants and cafes. – Following this rest, you are scheduled for a side trip to visit the former Warsaw Ghetto and its Jewish History Museum that shows a short video with an excellent introduction to its history, the struggle against occupation and tells the story of the martyrdom of the Jews. – Later, and with deep impressions of the city's past we shall return to our hotel for dinner with wine and for one more overnight. (B & D)





DAY 13: WARSAW - LODZ - POZNAN, Poland.

We leave Warsaw today westwards travelling the central plains of Poland past historic places of former invaders under the army command of Napoleon, later of Hitler's and Stalin's soldiers. - By way of Lodz we stop for a break, closely related to the development of textile industry. - After lunch time, we will tour one of the main streets lined with beautiful palaces and town-houses recently renovated which have become historical monuments. - Near the former ghetto of Lodz we shall visit a memorial park established in memory of the killed Jews. - During the later afternoon arrive at the city of Poznan to see its arcaded Town Hall of Renaissance architecture with an imposing clock tower and the castle residence of the country's former Great Dukes. - Historically, Poznan has been both prosperous and defiant, a trading post between East and West that has often found itself on the wrong side of a shifting border. - Join this evening again for a welcome cocktail and dinner at the hotel. - Afterwards, you may wish to visit the city's majestic market square, a hubbub of activity and an interesting place to hang out perhaps for some later this evening, on request also accompanied by your Tour Director. (B & D/ 1 night)





DAY 14: POZNAN - SWIEBODZIN - BERLIN, Germany.

Our morning route takes us further west by way of small villages and farmland, picturesque hills and dense forests. - At Swiebodzin we stop for a break to visit its center that still contains remnants of the town's past dating back to the 14th C as a medieval settlement. You will see intact towers and fragments of the city's defense walls and bastions and visit its central market square, the 16th Town Hall with original Gothic vaults and its Clock Tower. - Following your lunch break a side trip will take you a little out of Swiebodzin to admire its new statue "Christ the King", completed in 2010 and intended to serve as a site of pilgrimage, claimed to be with 238 ft overall the world's largest statue of Jesus. - Soon after, we cross border back into Germany, arriving its capital Berlin in time for freshen up and meeting later here for a welcome reception and for a fine dinner at the hotel. (B & D/ 2 nights)





DAY 15: BERLIN & POTSDAM.

Your morning sightseeing tour of the new capital of reunited Germany acquired the splendour of a large and bustling European city representing a dynamic cultural and economic life. - The tour will show you what used to be East and West Berlin and will take you on sweeping avenue "Unter den Linden", planned by the great elector Friedrich the Great during the 17th C. - We will stop at the monument Brandenburg Gate, that has symbolized the division of the city up to 1989. - You will visit the "Reichstag" building which now houses the German Parliament, subsequently rebuilt and includes the addition of a glass dome resting on columns to provide daylight to the main chamber. A ramp is running around the dome and leads you to a panoramic platform. – Leaving this historic building by way of the city's Museum Island, listed also as one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites and stop at "Checkpoint Charly", former crossing point between East and West Berlin where once American and Soviet tanks stood muzzle to muzzle. - Some further south we stop again to view its ruined tower of the neo-Romanesque Emperor William Memorial Church kept as a reminder of World War II. Right here at famous boulevard Kurfuerstendamm time is now on your own to browse around, perhaps to visit the "KaDeWe" (Kaufhaus des Westens), Europe's biggest department store with a food department on the 6th floor that will titillate your culinary senses. – Early afternoon we leave for Potsdam by way of Glienicke Bruecke, a famous bridge during the "Cold War" which was used to exchange spies, a focal point of "cloak and dagger strategies" between the USA and USSR.





Then, it's on to visit Potsdam's magnificent palace Sanssouci of 1745 to admire the inside of this former summer residence displaying an outstanding collection of fine art treasures. - Enjoy also the outside, one of Europe's most impressive castle parks and view some later Cecilienhof Palace where in 1945 the Potsdam Agreement was signed by the leaders of the Allied powers. – Dinner tonight is a festive occasion in one of Berlin's famous restaurants with local entertainment, serving wine or beer. - To take you by surprise there will be a drawing of valuable gifts with everyone is winning. We wish this last evening to be the most enjoyable one of your special tour and highlights of Central & Eastern Europe! (B & D)



DAY 16: Last day of tour in BERLIN - return from here back home.

This morning enjoy your breakfast again and say good-bye to the Old World of Europe while your transfer takes you to Berlin's Airport for your flight back home. – Your Tour Director and motor coach driver bid "Auf Wiedersehen", - wishing all of you a happy return (B)

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What your land tour cost all includes

- * 15 accommodations at personal selected fine hotels throughout.
All rooms with private facilities, bath or shower, hair-dryer, telephone, TV
- * 15 full buffet-style breakfasts.
- * 15 three or four-courses dinners, including four dinners with wine or beer and four dinners out of hotels with local music or entertainment as per itinerary.
- * Total 30 meals.
- * Bag service in/ out at all hotels.
- * 8 welcome receptions.
- * Touring by a private and modern motor coach with all facilities, like a washroom / toilet, air-conditioned, reclining seats, panoramic windows, kitchen / bar and more for the convenience of passengers.
- * Airport transfers in Frankfurt and Berlin, all excursions, side trips, Danube cruise, sightseeing and entrance fees where applicable and according to this itinerary.





* Features:

Orientation drive of Frankfurt.

Stop over in Wuerzburg and Nuremberg.

Sightseeing tour of Munich, including entrance
to Nymphenburg's Horse Carriage Museum.

Excursion to Berchtesgaden including a salt mine train ride and to
the historic "Eagle's Nest".

Stop over in Melk to view its Abbey.

Sightseeing in Vienna including entrance to Schoenbrunn Palace.

A special evening with dinner, music and entertainment at the wine
village of Vienna's Grinzing.

Danube dinner cruise in Budapest.

Sightseeing tour of Buda & Pest including Castle Hill.

Life entertainment at one of the evenings at the hotel in Budapest.

Side trip to Banska Stiavnica in Slovakia including a visit to an open air museum.

Sightseeing tour of Krakow including entrance to the Royal Castle and tombs.

Side trip to Auschwitz including its museum.

Stop over in Czestochowa to see the icon of the Black Virgin.

Sightseeing tour of Warsaw, including entrance to the Royal Palace,
its former Ghetto and Jewish History Museum.

Stop over in Lodz including an orientation drive.

An orientation walk of Poznan.

Stop over in Swiebodzin to admire the world's tallest statue of Jesus.

Sightseeing tour of Berlin including entrance to Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam.

A valuable farewell gift to each member of tour.

- * An experienced and English-speaking Tour Director and a well - trained German
motor coach driver throughout land.

... your motor coach tour operator for all over europe



LAND TOUR COST PER PERSON SHARING DOUBLE – OR TWIN-BEDDED ROOM

30 – 35 paying persons = 2.450,00 EURO p.p.

36 – 40 paying persons = 2.300,00 EURO p.p.

EURO 525,00 single supplement.

* All rates net in Euro and not commissionable; valid thru 2014.

* Each 25 paying persons – plus 1 person free of charge/ land.

* Please select your own arrival / departure dates in accordance with us.

