

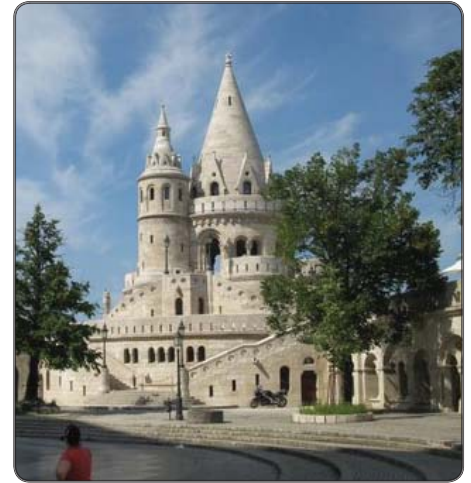
# EUROPE: East Meets West

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

**Day 1:** Depart today for Budapest.

**Day 2:** Arrive **Budapest**.

**Day 3:** Half day sightseeing tour of the **Pest** side of the city. Tour the Parliament Buildings. Visit St Stephen's Basilica. Stroll up Andrassy Boulevard, towards Heroes Square and City Park. See the Hungarian State Opera House. In City Park see Szechenyi Baths. **Vajdahunyad Castle** looks a lot like a Gothic Transylvanian Castle but was actually built for the 1886 millennium celebration. Visit the Dohany Street Synagogue. More than 2000 people who died here when the synagogue was part of the Jewish ghetto are buried here. Behind the synagogue lies Pests old Jewish Quarter. Later possible visits to the National Jewish Museum or the Holocaust Memorial, Memento Park with its statues of Lenin, Marx, and Engels or the House of Terror which was the headquarters of the Nazi Arrow Cross Regime and the Soviet Communist Secret Police. The chilling museum is now a memorial to the victims of both Fascism and Communism. **Tonight a cruise along the Danube.**



**Day 4:** Guided exploration of the **Buda** side of the Danube. Head to Gellert Hill. See the Citadella or Cathedral at the top. The Gellert Spa Baths was already famous in the 13th Century and is richly decorated with a wealth of mosaics, stained glass windows and sculptures. Castle Hill, a UNESCO World Cultural District consists of two parts: the Royal Palace and the Castle District. Most of this area is a reconstructed Medieval city but the original castle was destroyed in WWII and replaced with the current **Royal Palace**. Sightsee through the cobbled streets and twisty alleys of the historic Castle District. Back to Pest to shop along the Vaci Utca. Tonight enjoy a Hungarian Folk Show.

**Day 5:** Depart for **Prague**. Enroute, stop in **Kutna Hora**. In 1995 it was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today visit the Church of St Barbara and the Sedlec Ossuary (**Bone Church**), a small Roman Catholic chapel that contains the skeletons of between 40,000 – 70,000 people whose bones have been artistically arranged to form decorations and furnishings for the chapel.



**Day 6:** Guided walking tour of Old Town and Jewish Town. Beginning in 1338 Old Town Hall served as the center of administration. The impressive 200 foot Town Hall Tower where the Astronomical Clock is mounted was first built in the 14th century. The beautiful St Nicholas Church was completed in 1735 and is both a church and a magnificent venue for classical concerts. The Josefov neighbourhood was once the largest Jewish Ghetto in Europe. Today it is home to thought provoking museums, synagogues and cemeteries. Visit the Old Jewish Cemetery, six synagogues, and the Old Jewish Town Hall all part of the Jewish Museum. Despite Hitler's master plan to wipe out all traces of Jews during the Holocaust, the area was preserved as Hitler had planned to create a chilling museum here - an "exotic museum of an extinct race". Tonight cross Charles Bridge for a spellbinding evening city and Castle night view.

**Day 7:** Meet your guide to discover the other side of the city. Visit **Prague Castle** and Lesser Town. Tour the Old Royal Palace, St Georges Basilica and St Vitrus Cathedral. Visit Golden Lane, an ancient street that dates back from the 15th century with 11 beautiful old wooden houses. Today they display medieval armory and textiles. Descend into picturesque Lesser Town. The Lesser town started life in the 8th century as a market settlement. In 1257, it was granted town status and was home to the merchants and craftsmen who served the Royal Court. Descend down the Royal Way or Nerudova Street to the Charles Bridge. The bridge is decorated with Baroque statues but to preserve the value of the 75 statues most of the originals were removed and replaced with copies. Retrace the steps of Prague's "Velvet Revolution", the non-violent transition of power in what was then Czechoslovakia to the end of 41 years of Communist rule, to Wenceslas Square. This is the heart of New Town. Tonight enjoy a concert.



**Day 8:** Depart for **Cesky Krumlov**. Under the rule of the Schwarzenbergs, Cesky Krumlov reached the level of a leading aristocratic residence in Europe with grand construction works and rich cultural and social events. The town has retained its entire medieval layout and most of its historic buildings. Enjoy wandering the town on your own.

**Day 9:** Meet your guide for a guided walking tour of the town, the elegant buildings and courtyards of the Castle and the Baroque Theatre inside the castle. The Castle is among the most important historic sites in the central European region. It towers over the gorgeous town below and contains elements from the Gothic, High Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. Continue to **Salzburg**. Upon arrival discover the city on your own. Commence at Mozartplatz with the statue of **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** unveiled in 1842. Walk towards The Residenzplatz. See the famous Glockenspeil. The 35 bells play classical tunes at 7am, 11am and 6pm. Stop at Cathedral Square or Domplatz. courtyard. Walk towards Franziskanergasse until it becomes Hofstallgasse and finally intersects with Getreidegasse the main shopping street in the Old City. This afternoon will visit Mozart's birthplace.

**Day 10:** Guided sightseeing tour. Stop at Mirabell Palace Gardens. Continue to Mozart's Residence. Besides an interesting collection of musical instruments are exhibits of books from Leopold Mozart's library as well as a multimedia show. On to St Sebastian Cemetery final resting place for many family members of the Mozart family. Visit the inside of Salzburg Cathedral and St Peters Church and Cemetery. Cross through Residenzplatz to Alter Markt. Right in the center of the Old City is an old marketplace. The square is lined with 17th century middle class houses in colors of pink, pale blue and yellow. Evening chamber musical concert.

**Day 11:** Ride the funicular to **Hohensalzburg**, the largest preserved medieval fortress in central Europe. The exterior may look rather grim but inside it there are lavish state rooms, a collection of medieval art, the Burgmuseum and the Rainers Museum with its arms and armor. Visit the Castle courtyard which was the main square of the castle residents. Head back down from the fortress to the Old City.

**Day 12:** Depart for **Vienna**. The city has reminders of the once ruling **Hapsburgs, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Strauss**. Visit Schonbrunn Palace, the huge Hapsburg summer residence. Continue to Vienna.

**Day 13:** Meet your guide for an Inner City sightseeing tour focusing on the inside of the Ringstrasse, the boundary for the Inner City or the heart of Vienna. It is lined with many of Vienna's top sites. Visit the Opera House and St Stephens Cathedral. The opera house is a focus of life in Vienna and one of the chief symbols of resurgence after WWII. Visit Vienna's soaring centerpiece St Stevens Cathedral. **Hofburg Palace** was the winter residence of the Hapsburgs but this will be visited on own. Visit the Staatsoper or State Opera House. Stroll up the pedestrian only Graben Street and Karntnerstrasse the main shopping street of Vienna comparable to 5th Avenue in New York.

**Day 14:** Discover the city on your own. The Inner Stadt, Vienna medieval heart is a great place to spend the day. Shop Kholmarkt, Vienna's most elegant shopping street with all the main brand names represented here. See Schonlaterngasse (Street of the Beautiful Lantern) once part of Vienna medieval Latin Quarter and today is lined with beautiful Baroque houses that are now art galleries, boutiques and coffeehouses. Visit Josefsplatz as Vienna's loveliest courtyard and Judenplatz what was once the old Jewish ghetto. The **Rathaus** (City Hall) looks like a Gothic fantasy castle with its many spires and turrets. In winter it is the location for the famous Christmas market in Vienna while in the summer concerts are performed here. Evening concert.

**Day 15:** Flight home.

## **TOUR INCLUSIONS**

- Return flight to Budapest Return Vienna
- Coach from Budapest until Dep from Vienna
- 13 nights hotel acc with private facilities
- Breakfast daily
- 6 dinners
- Airport assistance in Budapest upon arrival
- **Guided tours**
  - o Budapest – 2 half days
  - o Prague – 2 half days
  - o Chesky Krumlov – 1 half day
  - o Salzburg & Vienna – 1 half day each
- **Kutna Hora Entrances**
  - o Church of Santa Barbara
  - o Sedlec Ossuary (Bone Crch)

- **Budapest Entrances**

- o Parliament Buildings
- o St Stevens Basilica
- o Dohany Street Synagogue
- o St Matthias Church
- o Evening Danube Cruise
- o Hungarian Folk Show

- **Vienna Entrances**

- o Schonbrunn Castle
- o Opera House
- o St Stephens Cathedral
- o Evening concert

- **Chesky Krumlov Entrances**

- o Chesky Krumlov Castle
- o Baroque Theatre at Castle

- **Salzburg Entrances**

- o Mozart's Birthplace
- o Salzburg Cathedral
- o St Peters Church
- o Mozarts Residence
- o St Sebastian Cemetery
- o Hohensalzburg
- o Funicular to Hohensalzburg
- o Evening Chamber Music

- **Prague Entrances**

- o Josefov (Jewish District)
- o Prague Castle
- o Evening concert