

Cycling Safaris

PRAGUE TO VIENNA 8/Overnight Self-guided Tour 2010



The Czech Republic is a beautiful country in central Europe. Past generations have left a wonderful treasure of cultural and historical monuments reflecting a rich and diverse history - ancient towns full of life and culture, Gothic castles and churches, Renaissance chateaux, and many examples of folk cultures. More than two thousand castles, chateaux and castle ruins have been preserved in the Czech Republic. Few countries of Europe can match its richness of historical and architectural monuments.

This tour will give you the opportunity to discover the impressive countryside of Moravia and Bohemia Lands which are still less visited corners of central Europe. The tour links the magnificent cities of Prague and Vienna with the picturesque villages of Moravia, architectural pearls of Bohemia and other natural gems of the country. Most of the days trails are through beautiful and ever changing landscape with little traffic in unspoiled countryside.

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 Arrive in Prague

On arrival in the city you can check into your hotel where you will get a voucher for your evening meal and then you can explore the city at your leisure.

DAY 2 Prague to Cesky Krumlov approx. 45 km / 28 miles

In the morning you will be met and collected by our representatives (time will be advised on the voucher which you will receive on your arrival) to their office for welcome briefing and setting with your bikes. Then you will be transferred (155km/97m) by minibus to České Budejovice, the home of the "Original Budweiser", where you begin your cycling through the central European landscape, to arrive in time to explore the wonderful old town of Cesky Krumlov, a UNESCO protected city, with its impressive castle and well preserved medieval town centre.

DAY 3 **Cesky Krumlov to Trebon** **approx. 61 km / 38 miles**

You ride from your hotel, continuing through the southern Bohemian countryside to the beautiful Renaissance town of Trebon, located in a region of oak woods, meadows and large lakes. The international importance of the fishponds and lakes of this area is acknowledged by its status as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. This is also the town of one of the oldest Czech breweries, Regent. Many of the fishponds date from the 15th and 16th centuries, and you will cycle around them.

DAY 4 **Trebon to Telc** **approx. 76 km / 47 miles**

You head eastwards out of Bohemia and into neighbouring Moravia, riding along the many ponds so typical of this region, to Perslak, the most northern point of Austria. You follow the border with Austria on the "Greenways" trail, and ride through the forests of Czech Canada National Park. Today's destination is Telc. This town boasts a wonderfully-preserved square with Renaissance gables and sgraffitto facades. The medieval town square was destroyed by a great fire in 1530, but was rebuilt, and its houses, in the Renaissance and Baroque styles, survive to this day and since 1950 have undergone careful restoration.

DAY 5 **Telc - Vranov nad Dyji** **approx. 58 km / 36 miles**

Today you cycle through several villages typical for this area of the country, a hilly landscape at first but gradually changing to flatter terrain as the day progresses. Vranove nad Dyji is a gate to a region of South Moravia, a region of wine production.

DAY 6 **Vranov nad Dyji - Znojmo** **approx. 38 km / 24 miles**

One of the tour highlights is a bike ride through the rural setting of Podyji National Park and a visit to the remains of the Iron Curtain at the Czech - Austrian border. Znojmo, where you overnight, is a medieval centre and well worth exploring.

DAY 7 **Znojmo - Mikulov** **approx. 70 km / 44 miles**

Today you bike on a greenways trail following the River Dyje which borders Austria, an easy trail with just one steep uphill. This flatland region is a traditional vine growing area and there are many wine cellars. Mikulov is a town rich in history on the edge of the limestone Pavlovske Vrchy hills. The town sits under its large castle, destroyed by the Germans and rebuilt in the 1950s, and is now home to the town museum. In the surrounding countryside the emphasis is on vineyards and wine production.

Day 8 **Mikulov - Vienna** **Approx. 45km / 28 miles**

Crossing the border and checkpoint at Mikulov, you head into Austria through vineyards, fields and small villages. While it is possible to reach Vienna by bike (96 km / 60 miles), we recommend finishing the cycle in Poysdorf (25 km) or Mistelbach (35 km) and take a car/van transfer into Vienna (meeting point with the car is set in advance). Accommodation is in a centrally located hotel in the city of Vienna. The tour officially finishes on arrival in Vienna but we have included a night in the city as part of our package.

Day 9 **Homeward bound....**

After breakfast and you are free to head home at your leisure.

TOUR PRICE

€870.00 per person sharing
€990.00 single room

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

- ❑ 8 nights accommodation in 3*** hotels with breakfast
- ❑ 21 speed **mountain** bike
- ❑ Luggage transfers between hotels
- ❑ Detailed route notes and maps
- ❑ All transfers during the tour
- ❑ Pick up from Prague Airport

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION

If you require additional accommodation and would like us to book it on your behalf, please let us know:-

Pre-tour night in Prague:- €45.00 per person sharing. €67.00 for single room.
Post-tour night in Vienna:- €58.00 per person sharing. €77.00 for single room.

WHAT TO BRING

We would recommend that you bring padded cycling shorts and / or a gel saddle cover which will make your days cycling more comfortable. Cycling gloves are also a good investment, as are hard-sole shoes which will help protect your feet. Please bring your own helmet as these are not provided. And don't forget raingear including a rain jacket, rain pants and slip-on boots. A hat and sunglasses will protect you from getting all too much sun. Finally, please make an effort to pack lightly. This will make your travels easier and will be much appreciated with the luggage transfers.

BIKE / FITNESS

The bikes supplied for this tour are 21 speed Specialised mountain bikes with Shimano equipment. All bikes have a computer, steering bags with map holder in case of guided tours (for self-guided there are also saddle bags), rear lights, bottle cage and mudguards.

As we arrange holidays for our clients, we try to make our trips as enjoyable as possible. Every day is different but generally most of days we ride between 30 to 47 miles and most of days offer more than one option. This is a moderate tour (i.e., not for beginners) in terms of difficulty. There some hills to climb (and occasional off-road cycling) on this tour so we would recommend that you do some cycling before the tour in order to make your week more enjoyable, if possible do it on varied terrain and include some hill climbing.