

# CENTRAL EUROPE

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## *Prague, Budapest, Vienna – 12 days*

Departure: April 14, 2018

Return: April 25, 2018

*The Classical and Romantic music and culture sprang from the cities of Prague,*



*Budapest and Vienna as if there was something flowing through the Danube and its tributaries nearly as vital to civilization as the water itself. Geniuses like Mozart, The Strausses, Bartok and Beethoven strolled the banks of the river and city streets of these fascinating cities. On this our perennial tour since 1982, we have four exceptional opera performances*

*in Europe's most opulent opera houses. Enjoy gourmet dining and five star centrally located hotels in three of Central Europe's most fascinating cities.*

### ***Opera Performances***

**In Prague:**

April 16 – **The Bartered Bride** by Smetana at the National Theater

April 17 – **Marriage of Figaro** by Mozart at the Estates Theater

**In Budapest:**

April 21 – **Un Ballo in Maschera** by Verdi at the Erkel Theater

**In Vienna:**

April 24 – **Fidelio** by **Beethoven** at the Vienna State Opera



## Saturday, April 14. (D)\* DEPART FOR PRAGUE

Depart today aboard any airline of your choice to Prague, Czech Republic. Dinner and light breakfast served on the plane.

## Sunday, April 15. (B,D). PRAGUE

Our representative will meet you at the Prague International Airport and bring you to the most centrally located PALACE HOTEL where you will stay four nights. Briefing and cocktails at the hotel. Gala Welcome dinner at a gourmet restaurant.

## Monday, April 16. (B). PRAGUE

Our sightseeing this morning will take us to the Castle District where we will visit Hradcany Castle, the Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral and the Golden Lane. Afternoon at leisure. This evening we will see the opera **The Bartered Bride** by **Smetana** at the National Theater.

*PRAGUE is called the Golden City of One Hundred Spires. If you stand on the ramparts of Prague Castle and look across the old town, you understand why. As far as the eye can see, the sun is reflected on the glittering surfaces of the spires, steeples and domes. It is also one of the loveliest cities in all of Europe. Hradcany Castle and the Old Town are fine examples of Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance architecture.*

## Tuesday, April 17. (B). PRAGUE

This morning we visit the Old Synagogue and Museum, the Jewish Cemetery as well as the Old Town Square with its world-famous Astronomical Clock and the Charles Bridge. Afternoon at leisure. This evening we will see the opera **Marriage of Figaro** by **Mozart** at the Estates Theater.

## Wednesday, April 18. (B). PRAGUE

Today is free to take in one or two of the many fine museums in the city, including the Czech Museum of Music and the Mucha Museum dedicated to Alfons Mucha, originator of the Art Nouveau in 1895 which spread all over the world at the beginning of the 20th century.



## Thursday, April 19. (B). PRAGUE – BRATISLAVA - BUDAPEST

This morning we drive southeast through the lovely, picturesque Bohemian countryside of the Czech Republic and cross the border into Slovakia, to arrive in Bratislava where we will take a sightseeing tour by foot to see the Cathedral of St. Martin, the Old City Hall and the Trinity Church. We continue our drive west to cross the border into Hungary and reach Budapest where we stay three nights at the deluxe HOTEL MARRIOTT located next to River Danube. By special arrangements all our rooms face the Chain and Elizabeth bridges.

## Friday, April 20. (B,D). BUDAPEST

Morning sightseeing in this famous twin city will start in Buda with a visit to the 13th century Matthias Church and the Fisherman Bastion. In Pest, the famous commercial center, we will see St. Stephen's Basilica, the Hungarian Parliament, Hero Square and the newly restored Synagogue. Afternoon at leisure. This evening we enjoy our dinner at the famous GUNDEL restaurant, entertained by Hungarian violinists.

*BUDAPEST is that paradox among Eastern European capitals, a city where the pleasure of the table has lost none of its zing. Happily, for visitors enticed by monuments to an opulent past, Hungary's former imperial city is filled with architectural treasures that have been handsomely preserved. Divided by the wide stately bends of the Danube River, Budapest is two cities in one. The halves present a startling contrast. On the east bank modern, bustling, industrial Pest spreads across the low-lying Hungarian piedmont. On the west, 2000-year old Buda – the historic heart of the city and a pedestrian's delight – wanders into a bastion of secluded hills.*

## Saturday, April 21. (B). BUDAPEST

Today is free to take a boat ride on the Danube River or take one of the hot baths in Buda or visit any of the fine museums. This evening we will see the opera **Un Ballo in Maschera** by **Verdi** at the Erkel Theater.

## Sunday, April 22. (B). BUDAPEST - VIENNA

This morning we drive west to cross the border into Austria and arrive in Vienna where we stay three nights at the deluxe, centrally located HOTEL BRISTOL.

*VIENNA: From the time, the Romans selected the site of a Celtic settlement for the location of one of its most important Central European forts, Vindobona, the city which grew up in the Vienna Basin of the Danube, has played a vital role in European history. Austria grew up*



*around the city and developed into a mighty empire, but the Viennese character formed during the long history of the country can only be said to be a rich amalgam of the blending of cultures that have made Vienna what it still is today: a city whose people devote themselves to the enjoyment of the good life - music, art, literature, theater, architecture, education, food and drink - all are part of the gemütlichkeit of Vienna. Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven, the Strausses (all of them), Gluck, Mahler, Brahms, Liszt, Haydn, Weber, Schonberg - in the music world alone, these are some of the outstanding names which are a part of the soul of Vienna.*

### Monday, April 23. (B,D). VIENNA

Morning sightseeing of this cultural capital of Europe. Among the sights will be the Hofburg, the former Imperial Palace, and St. Stephen's Cathedral, walk through the charming courtyards and see some of the homes of famous composers such as Beethoven and Mozart. This evening we will have our Gala Farewell dinner at the famous SACHER Restaurant.

### Tuesday, April 24. (B). (B). VIENNA

Today is free to see any of the fine museums within walking distance of the hotel including the Albertina and multitude of them in the Hofburg Museum quarter. This evening we will see the opera **Fidelio** by **Beethoven** at the Vienna State Opera.

### Wednesday, April 25. (B). VIENNA – BACK HOME

We will arrange transfer for your flight back home arriving the same afternoon. Auf wiedersehn. See you soon on another H.A.T. Tour.

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\* B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner (including wine)



## LAND COST

DOUBLE: \$6,950 PER PERSON

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,250

## TOUR INCLUDES

- 1st Category orchestra level seats in theaters
  - Centrally located deluxe hotels
  - Buffet breakfast daily, 3 dinners with wine in gourmet restaurants
  - Welcome reception with cocktails
  - Private sightseeing in each city throughout
  - Experienced English speaking guides
  - Entrance fees to museums
  - Intercity luxury coach services
  - Transportation to and from theatres
  - Baggage handling
  - Guide, driver and bellboys gratuities
  - Complete package with details of operas listed
  - Transfers from and to airports on published arrival and departure days only
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