



# Jewels of Eastern Europe

## Exploring the Hidden Treasures of Europe with Judy Pike & Friends

October 8 - 21, 2012

The Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary are among Europe's recent success stories. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, all three have celebrated their freedom and independence with wide-sweeping reforms and new-found economic prosperity.

Much of the charm of the region, however, lies in the history and cultural wealth that its ancient position in Europe has created. Hungary was once the seat of the Habsburg Empire, an empire that stretched around the world, and Prague was once the capital of the Holy Roman Empire. This proud legacy is displayed in the grand architecture and fabulous museums that are hosted by both cities.

While our tour stays in the capital cities of Prague, Bratislava and Budapest, we have also included plenty of time to explore the rural side of these countries with excursions to the provinces and stays in beautiful towns and villages.

### Berlin Extension

**Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>:** Departure from your chosen departure city.

**Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.** Arrival in Berlin. After we clear customs we will meet up with our tour guide, David Phillips, and board the bus for the journey to our hotel in central Berlin. The rest of the day will be free to unpack, relax from the flight and begin exploring the neighborhood. **Overnight: Berlin**

**Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.** A morning sightseeing tour with a local guide will introduce this once divided city. We'll see the main shopping street, the Kurfurstendamm (known colloquially as the Ku-damm), with its famous KaDeWe department store, stop at the Brandenburg Gate for a view of the newly-renovated Reichstag. We'll drive down Unter den Linden to the Gendarmenmarkt, one of the city's most beautiful squares and also pass by the famous Island of Museums. The afternoon and the evening will be free. **(B) Overnight: Berlin**

**Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.** Free day in Berlin. **(B) Overnight: Berlin**

**Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.** Transfer to the train station this morning for the train to Prague (about 4 hours). On arrival in Prague, you'll transfer to the hotel and meet up with the rest of the group arriving from the U.S. **(B) Overnight: Prague**

The cost of this extension is **\$990** per person, double occupancy (single supplement: \$480) and includes 3 night's first-class hotel accommodation, breakfast daily, all entrance fees, 1st class train tickets to Prague, portorage, airport transfers and services of a tour guide (David Phillips) throughout.



The Charles Bridge in Prague

This fall join Discover Europe's David Phillips as he takes Judy Pike and friends on an adventure to explore the *Jewels of Eastern Europe*.

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Land Only (no airfare included): **\$3990**  
Single supplement: **\$1090**

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

The following services are included:

- 12 nights' accommodation in 4 and 5-star hotels.
- All hotel taxes & service charges included.
- Buffet breakfast daily.
- Services of tour leader David Phillips throughout.
- All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Local guides in Prague, Bratislava and Budapest.
- Entrances to all sites featured in the itinerary.
- Portorage of one large suitcase per person at all hotels.





**Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.** Departure from your chosen departure city. **Overnight: Plane**

**Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.** Arrival in Prague. After we clear customs we will meet up with our tour guide, David Phillips, and board the bus for the journey to our hotel in central Prague. The rest of the day will be free to unpack, relax from the flight and begin exploring the neighborhood. **Overnight: Prague**

**Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.** Sightseeing in Prague today begins with a walking tour of Wenceslas Square and the Old Town with its famous Astronomical Clock atop the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Town Hall. We'll continue through the Jewish Ghetto to St. Nicholas Church and stroll along the banks of the Vltava River to the Charles Bridge. This afternoon we visit Hradcany Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral. Free evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Prague**

**Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.** This morning we take an excursion to Karlstejn Castle, the most spectacular medieval castle in the country. We'll have a guided tour and time for lunch before returning to Prague. Following our mid-afternoon arrival, we'll have free time to explore and to search out a local restaurant for dinner. **(B)** **Overnight: Prague**

**Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.** Leaving Prague this morning we head south to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Cesky Krumlov. We'll spend the day in the town before driving the short distance north to the village of Hluboka, where our hotel is next door to the magnificent 19th-century Hluboka Castle. **(B)** **Overnight: Hluboka**

**Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.** We'll spend the morning in Hluboka with a visit to the castle before heading out this afternoon to the town of Telc. Often called the most beautiful town in the Czech Republic, Telc is another UNESCO World Heritage Site. After stopping for lunch here, we'll continue to nearby Trebic. Trebic has two specific attractions, the early architectural masterpiece of the Basilica of St Procopius and the perfectly preserved Jewish Town. We'll have a short guided tour before we return to Hluboka for a free evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Hluboka**

**Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.** Making our way from the southern Czech Republic to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, we cross through the northeast corner of Austria. We'll stop first at the magnificent Benedictine Abbey, Stift Altenburg, before continuing to the charming walled town of Eggenburg, where we'll stop for lunch. We continue this afternoon through the Wienerwald (the Vienna Forest) and make a stop on top of the Kahlenberg for spectacular views over the city of Vienna, before ending the day at our hotel in Bratislava. **(B)** **Overnight: Bratislava**

**Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.** Morning walking tour of the old town of Bratislava with a local guide. The afternoon is free and this evening we'll attend a performance at the Slovak National Theatre (schedule to be advised). **(B)** **Overnight: Bratislava**

**Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.** Heading south and crossing the border with Hungary this morning, our first stop will be the Herend porcelain factory, where they do an excellent factory visit. We'll continue on along the north shore of Lake Balaton to Hertlendy Castle, our luxury spa hotel for the next 2 nights. **(B)** **Overnight: Hertlendy Castle**

**Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.** A free day to enjoy the hotel facilities (golf, tennis, horse-riding, spa/wellness center, hot air balloon or glider rides, a Michelin-starred restaurant, etc.) or perhaps a day excursion to nearby Pecs. Pecs was founded by the Romans and is famous, among other things, for its early-Christian necropolis (designated a World heritage Site by UNESCO). **(B)** **Overnight: Hertlendy Castle**



*Prague - the Vltava River*

**Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.** Today we drive to Budapest following the southern shore of Lake Balaton. We'll stop along the way for lunch at one the many beautiful lakeside villages. We'll arrive at our hotel in downtown Budapest with plenty of time to unpack and relax before we search out our dinner for the evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Budapest**

**Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.** Morning sightseeing of the twin cities of Buda and Pest with a local guide introduces the local history. We'll view the magnificent Parliament building on the banks of the Danube, built to rival London's Palace of Westminster, drive through Heroe's Square and past the Opera House, over the Elizabeth Bridge and on to the Citadel atop Gellert Hill. From here there are magnificent views over the whole city. The afternoon and evening are free to explore the local shops or to take one of the thermal spa treatments for which the city is famous. **(B)** **Overnight: Budapest**



*Budapest - the Parliament*

**Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.** A full day excursion just to the north of the city today takes us to the region known as the Danube Bend. We begin with a visit to the cobbled streets of the artist's village of Szentendre and then continue along the Danube to Visegrad, dominated by the 13<sup>th</sup>-century castle at the top of the hill, and Ezstergom, the capital of medieval Hungary. From here our coach returns us to our hotel in Budapest for a final free evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Budapest**

**Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.** Morning transport to Budapest Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**