

Czech~Slovak Experience

Castles & Countryside's

October 3-14, 2015



As 2015 approaches in the not too distant future, Orava Castle will add one more year to its long and storied past...and we get to see it up close and personal. The next Fine Travel Experience is upon us!

Please join us for an amazing 11 night adventure throughout the Czech Republic, beginning in the City of 100 Spires, Prague! We also include a jaunt into western Slovakia wandering through the landscape of these two beautiful countries, which were once one only 20 years ago! Castles abound throughout this region and more so than any other European nation. Awaiting our discovery are, walks through medieval fortresses and countryside drives through rural Czech Republic and the Carpathian Mountains of Slovakia. European history seems endless here. Mysterious stories of rulers past and the legacy they've left behind are directly on our path.

Enjoy five nights in the magical city of Prague at the wonderful Alchemist Grand Hotel located in the heart of Mali Strana (Prague lesser town) just minutes from the Charles Bridge and Prague castle. This is an idyllic location for exploring the city on foot. Spend two nights in the world famous spa town of Karlovy Vary (better known as Carlsbad in English). This corner of the world is known for its magical healing waters.

Spend 3 nights in the lovely Roman hill town of Trencin, Slovakia on the western edge of the country in the Vah River valley. This will be the base for our explorations of this less traveled highway. Stop for one night in route to Slovakia in the Capitol of Moravia, Brno. The Czech Republic's 2nd largest city is a perfect way station to briefly explore the hidden treasures it holds both in the city and countryside. Gothic Pernstejn Castle will surely bring you back in time much like the underground passages in Brno.

Visits in and around Prague will begin the program with a few sights off the beaten path, as well as a few of the "must-see" venues that makes Prague one of the jewels of Europe. Prague Castle, which is actually a glorious compound dominated by St. Vitus Cathedral will begin the schedule. Stoic Sternberk Castle and its comely sister, Sternberk Chateau is just on the outskirts of Prague. An authentic hearty Czech dinner with fine wines at the romantic Chateau will cap the day's adventures.

The countryside of both Czech Republic and Slovakia are as beautiful as ever at this time of year and the majority of tourists have gone home for the season. Of course, the tour wouldn't be complete without the exclusive access for our group through the wonderful sights you've come to expect on a Fine Travel Experience. This program is slightly different from the previous Experiences', think of it as a Sunday afternoon drive through the countryside with 20 of your best friends.

And Ladies, you'll be in heaven since both Prague and Karlovy Vary Hotels have world-class spas to pamper you after a day of touring....or simply taking a needed break. Rest assured, if you're in need of luxurious TLC in Trencin, the lovely hotel amenities will be sure to delight your senses here too.

Mark your calendar for the next Fine Travel Experience; October 3-14, 2015! For further program details and to secure your presence, please contact Michael. There is limited space available. Below are the beginnings of this wonderful itinerary on the subsequent pages. Make your plans to join us and the rest of your friends next year!

Please note this program continues to evolve and will be refined to provide you with up to the minute scheduling details. The following is what you can expect to Experience.

The Czech-Slovak Experience Itinerary

(a brief synopsis)

Days 1, 2, 3, 4

Friday Oct 2, 2015 -
Depart USA & Canada for Europe



Saturday October 3

Arrival day into Prague from US & Canada –

Meet Michael at the airport upon arrival, transfer immediately and check-in to; **Alchymist Grand Hotel and Spa** settle in and relax. Enjoy a welcome reception this evening with your fellow travelers



Prague Castle overlooking the City and Charles Bridge

Sunday – Oct 4

Relax this morning and acclimate. Breakfast is included at the hotel. Have lunch on your own followed this afternoon by a walking tour of Prague including Prague Castle, *Hradčany*, including St. Vitus Cathedral. This evening enjoy an included welcome dinner at Restaurant Jan Huss

B, D



Monday – Oct 5

The morning is free to explore Prague on your own followed by late afternoon excursion via bus south of Prague to Sternberk Castle and its neighboring Chateau. Enjoy an included dinner at the Chateau this evening. Sternberk castle has been owned and currently occupied by one family since its inception in the 13th Century

B, D

Tuesday- Oct 6

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel followed by a morning tour to the south end of Prague to a less visited site; Peter & Paul Cathedral and Vyšehrad Cemetery alongside the Vltava River. Enjoy a traditional Czech lunch prior to returning to the hotel. Enjoy the final evening in Prague on your own.

B, L

Days 5, 6, 7

Wednesday – Oct 7

Today takes us out of Prague to the Western section of Bohemia to a beautiful town called *Karlovy Vary*. This town is known internationally for its healing waters, with over 300 warm water springs found immediately in and below the town. Enjoy a tour of the famous *Moser Glass* factory this afternoon. Karlovy Vary is a remarkably beautiful and unique town where a number of international movies were filmed.

B



Thursday – Oct 8

This morning is free to explore the city on your own or perhaps take in the healing waters with a spa treatment. This afternoon we travel a few short kilometers away to a medieval town called "Loket" and

tour the Castle on top of the hill. Loket was filmed in the James Bond thriller "*Casino Royale*" as a town in Montenegro.

B

Friday – Oct 9

Today, travel east headed towards Slovakia via coach. Stop off for a visit to one of the Czech Republic's hidden treasures; *Pernštejn Castle*. Tucked away in a hilly secluded section of Moravia, this castle holds many stories of conquests and colorful rulers and is said to be one of the best preserved castles in all of the Czech Republic. This evening, stay in The Czech Republic's 2nd largest city; Brno. **B, L**



Pernštejn Castle dates back to the 13th Century

Days 8, 9, 10, & 11



Saturday – Oct 10

Enjoy a free morning to wander and experience the sites of Brno. This afternoon, we travel a short distance east into Slovakia.

Stopping along the way to view yet another Castle overlooking the Czech valley into Slovakia – Buchov Castle – Continue on into Trenčín and land at the glorious Hotel Elizabeth. Enjoy a group reception this evening at the hotel.

B, R

Sunday - October 11

Today we explore south of Trenčín to a small town called Bojnice (pronounced; Bo-neetz-say) which sits immediately next to the village of Prievidza. This is where the massive-almost fairy-tale *Bojnice Castle* looms over these two small towns. In route to Bojnice we stop and wander through the ruins of Beckov castle perched on top of a rock precipice overlooking the Váh River Valley. See two sides of the castle spectrum in both Beckov, which

is mostly ruins, and Bojnice which is in pristine condition for a medieval fortress.
B, L

Monday – October 12

This is a big day as we drive into the beautiful Carpathian & low Tatra Mountains in Northern Slovakia headed to the Orava Valley. Orava holds one of Slovakia's national treasures; Orava Castle towering above the valley. Built on top of a wooden fortification in 1241, the original purpose was to ward off the Mongol and Tartar invasions in their attempt at conquering the Hungarian Empire in the 13th Century. Many scenes of the 1922 film; Nosferatu were shot here. When you conjure images of mysterious and medieval castles, Orava is a classic. We'll tour through the majority of this amazing multi-level fortress. Enjoy a lovely lunch in a traditional Slovak restaurant prior to touring. This evening, after returning to Trencin, enjoy a group dinner above the city at Trencin Castle. If you're a fan of medieval sights and history, today is your day.
B, L, D



Trencin Castle keeping vigil over the heart of the Slovakian city

Tuesday - October 13

Today following breakfast, return to Prague via coach for a final night stay prior to returning home Monday. Check in to Alchymist Hotel this afternoon and enjoy a free evening in Prague with your fellow travelers or as you wish.

B

Wednesday October 14

Following breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Prague airport for return flights to US & Canada.

B



Czech Hero – Jan Zizka



One of many great medieval sites to see close to Prague

Included in your *Czech-Slovak Experience* program:

- Welcome reception at the Alchemist Grand Hotel & Spa
- Various meals in Prague, Trencin, and other destinations in between
- All breakfasts throughout the program at each specific hotel
- Wine with included meals
- Wine tasting with snacks in Trencin
- Professional and knowledgeable local Czech guide, Steven Thoresdale to accompany the group throughout the majority of the program
- All sightseeing activities as outlined in the itinerary, all entrance fees, and guided tours, museums, etc.
- Full program of excursions focused on educational & cultural topics described above from expert local guides
- All transfers to hotels & airports on arrival & departure days October 1 & 13
- All coach travel between cities
- All hotel portorage/luggage handling
- Language translation assistance
- Free time on your own to sightsee, explore, shop or relax in the spa
- Veteran Travel director, Mike Jensen, and other experts to accompany and oversee all aspects of the program from beginning to end

Not included in your *Czech-Slovak Experience* program:

- Your round trip flight inbound & outbound to Prague, Czech Republic
- Any excess baggage fees/airline fees-set by airlines
- Passport fees & taxes

- Gratuities to local castle & museum guides, and Czech Guide; Steven Thoresdale
- Hotel upgrades/suite upgrades (please inquire if interested)
- Added or extra hotel nights outside of scheduled program dates (pre or post program dates)
- Additional spa services in hotels
- Transfer costs outside of scheduled program dates
- Personal amenities such as; internet fees, calls, laundry, personal meals/room service, alcoholic beverages not listed as "included in program"
- Medical services or emergency evacuations
- Personal travel insurance
- Replacement shoes after wearing out your existing shoes from visiting all the great sites on the tour!

➤ Price per-person based on double occupancy
\$4190.00

**For further program details & securing your place, please contact:
Mike Jensen at: (702) 245 0301 or finetravelexperience@gmail.com
www.finetravelexperience.com**

*Reserving your space for the **Czech-Slovak Experience**:*

A deposit of \$750 per-person is due immediately to secure your space. Please contact Mike to receive your initial reservation documents via email. Preferred deposit payment is; personal check, Visa, Master, or Discover card. If paying via check, please make payable to Michael Jensen and return the necessary registration forms via usps mail, fax, or email.

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