

The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association &  
The Office of Alumni Relations

*Present*

# Prague and Beyond

## Exploring Bohemia

September 7 – 15, 2012

\$3,089 per person, double occupancy from Chicago

**NIU**  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION



*This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations.*

# Day by Day Itinerary

## **Fri., Sept. 7 – CHICAGO/EN ROUTE (I)**

We depart Chicago's O'Hare Airport this afternoon by scheduled service of Delta Air Lines as we travel to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport in preparation for the overnight transatlantic flight to Prague, Czech Republic.

## **Sat., Sept. 8 – PRAGUE (I,HD)**

As the sun begins to rise on the Czech heartland we arrive in Prague where we'll meet our local Tour Guide who will introduce us to the Czech Republic's "Golden City of the Hundred Spires". One of the world's most impressive capital cities, we'll soon find out that Prague is full of thrilling history and glorious architecture.

## **Sun., Sept. 9 – PRAGUE (B)**

Our introduction to Prague begins high above the Vltava River with a visit to Prague Castle. Despite periodic fires and invasions, Prague Castle has retained historic buildings and towers from every period of its long history. Located inside the castle walls we'll visit the city's most distinctive landmark, St. Vitus's Cathedral where a guided tour will take us back through a thousand years of history. Afterward, we'll take in the charming artisan cottages along the Golden Lane. Named after the goldsmiths who lived here in the 17th century, and once home to well-known writers including Franz Kafka, the Golden Lane is one of the most picturesque streets in all of Prague. Next, we'll walk down the Old Castle Steps to Mala Strana as we make our way to the magnificent Charles Bridge, built in 1357. Until 1741, the Charles Bridge was the only crossing over the Vltava River. Today Prague's most familiar landmark is a pedestrian bridge offering locals and visitors alike a virtual outdoor museum of no less than 30 religious statues. Our tour will come to an end in the Old Town Square where we'll view the superbly preserved medieval astronomical clock and its moving figures of the apostles, as well as the magnificent houses that surround the square.

## **Mon., Sept. 10 – PRAGUE (Terezin) (B)**

Today we travel northwest of Prague to the town of Terezin. Built as a Baroque army fortress by emperor Josef II in the 18th century the town was named Theresienstadt after his mother, Empress Marie Therese. In the years 1941 - 1945, Terezin became the largest concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. Over 140,000 Jewish men, women and children were brought here from around the country, as well as from Germany,

Austria, Holland, Denmark, Slovakia, and Hungary. Terezin was turned into a memorial in 1947. We'll visit the Little Fortress which served as a prison almost from the very beginning and became notorious as a Gestapo prison, Jewish Ghetto, and concentration camp in World War II. We'll also visit the Ghetto Museum, featuring exhibitions that have been arranged with the assistance of former prisoners of the Terezin Ghetto.

## **Tues., Sept. 11 – PRAGUE (Karlovy Vary) (B)**

Today we travel west to Karlovy Vary, the largest of the spa towns beautifully situated in a deep wooded valley of the Tepla River. Karlovy Vary was founded in 1358 by the Emperor Charles IV after he stumbled across a hot spring during a hunting expedition. To this day, the town continues to owe its international fame to its mineral springs, the most famous of which is the Vridlo, with a geyser of water reaching to a height of 10 to 15 meters. A tour of Karlovy Vary will introduce us to Market and Castle Colonnades with their famed mineral springs. We'll also see the town's remarkable monuments, and escape to its green parks before enjoying a funicular ride to the Diana Observation Tower lookout for a beautiful view of the surrounding countryside. On our return to Prague, we'll stop to visit the Moser Glass Factory, established by engraver Ludwig Moser in 1857, where we'll receive a true insight into this time honored Bohemian tradition.

## **Wed., Sept. 12 – PRAGUE (Karlstejn Castle) (B)**

Today we travel southwest of Prague to visit Karlstejn Castle, one of the most impressive High Gothic castles in the Czech Republic. The castle was built by Czech King and Roman Emperor Charles IV as a royal treasury, however both the King and his son Wenceslas frequently used the castle as a country home. Situated on a rocky outcrop surrounded by five low hills, a horse-drawn carriage ride will take us up to the easily defensible location, which combined with its architecture, created a formidable stronghold. The castle complex consists of three buildings; the Imperial Palace, the Great Tower and a smaller second tower, unusual for Central European castles. Today this storybook castle is fully restored and a trip to this wonderful village will take you back six centuries in time to a day when Prague lay at the center of the Holy Roman Empire.

## **Thurs., Sept. 13 – PRAGUE (Cesky Krumlov) (B)**

Today we travel to Southern Bohemia and the medieval

town of Cesky Krumlov. This picturesque town is found in a deep, meandering valley along the upper Vltava River, and its architecture has been preserved through the ages thanks to the area's peaceful history. Our tour will include a visit to the Castle and Chateau of Cesky Krumlov founded by the Vitkovec family in the first half of the 13th century. Unusually large for a town of Krumlov's size, the castle complex consists of 40 buildings and palaces, as well as gardens, courtyards, and a moat with resident bears. One of the highlights is the well-preserved Baroque Theater, which dates back to the 1400's, not to mention the view of the Old Town below. Following our tour of the castle, we'll have an opportunity to stroll through the narrow cobblestone streets of the Old Town where we'll find an enchanted atmosphere, surrounded by more than 300 well-preserved historical buildings, centuries old townhomes, inns, shops, and cafes. On our return to Prague, we'll stop in Ceske Budejovice to visit the famous Budvar brewery, from where the Czechs say Anheuser-Busch stole the Budweiser name.

**Fri., Sept. 14 – PRAGUE (B,RD)**

The day is free to explore the city of Prague on your own. Historic Prague's three districts include the Lesser Quarter, the Old Town and the New Town. The Lesser Quarter, or Mala Strana, is located on the left bank of the Vltava River at the foot of the majestic

Hradcany Castle and this is where you'll find most of the splendid Baroque Palaces and old houses. The 14th century Charles Bridge links the Lesser Quarter to the Old Town. Free of traffic and ringed with historic buildings, Prague's Old Town Square ranks among the finest anywhere, and though most of the neighboring Old Ghetto has disappeared, much of the area's fascinating history is preserved in the synagogues around the Old Jewish Cemetery. The adjacent New Town, now the commercial center, was originally planned and laid out around three large central market-places, most notably impressive Wenceslas Square. Whatever you choose to do, Prague has something for everyone! Tonight we'll enjoy a hearty Czech dinner accompanied by traditional entertainment featuring the best of Czech folk music, song and dance.

**Sat., Sept. 15 – PRAGUE/CHICAGO (B,I)**

Early this morning we travel to Prague's Ruzyně International Airport in preparation for our return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our Prague and Beyond vacation to last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way!

**\* \* \* Welcome Home \* \* \***

## **Visit [myniu.com](http://myniu.com) to make your reservation.**

### **The Tour Price Includes:**

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of Delta Air Lines (or other scheduled airlines). Meals and light beverages served in-flight according to airline schedules.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Czech Republic Tour Guide.
- Accommodations in a first-class hotel in twin-bedded rooms with private bath or shower.
- European-style buffet breakfast each morning and two evening dinners as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotel.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes and fuel surcharges of \$520 per person.**

**The Tour Price Does Not Include:** Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Czech Republic Tour Guide and local guide(s); luggage handling at airports; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

## TOUR CONDITIONS

**Tour Deposit and Payment:** Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

**Tour Pricing:** This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated and additional charges will be assessed.

**Travel Insurance:** Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to protect you from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 15 days (Plus Option) or 21 days (Elite Option) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Waiver of the Pre-Existing Medical Condition Exclusion. 2) Trip Cancellation/Interruption benefits due to a terrorist incident in a city on your trip itinerary within 30 days of arrival. 3) Cancel for Any Reason Coverage, if the Elite Option is purchased, and 4) Protection for Financial Default of an airline, cruise line, or tour operator. If you wish to take advantage of the special above provision, you must enroll within 15 days (21 days for the Elite Option) of the date your initial trip deposit is received. **Please Note:** Although purchasing the Travel Insurance is not mandatory for you to travel with our group, if you purchase insurance, it **must** be through USI Travel Insurance Services. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387.

## RESPONSIBILITY

**THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

**For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815/753-1512.**

To make your reservation visit [myniu.com](http://myniu.com) and click on travel.

*\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.*

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