

The Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Presents

Prague and Beyond – Exploring Bohemia

October 7 – 15, 2022

\$3,475 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Day by Day Itinerary

Friday, October 7 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this afternoon by scheduled service of Lufthansa German Airlines on the overnight transatlantic flight to Frankfurt, Germany.

Saturday, October 8 – FRANKFURT / PRAGUE (I,L)

As the sun begins to rise on the German heartland we arrive in Frankfurt and change planes for the connecting flight to Prague, Czech Republic, where we'll meet our Tour Guide who will introduce us to the "Golden City of the Hundred Spires" and the surrounding countryside. Prague is one of the world's most impressive capital cities, full of thrilling history and glorious architecture. And, as we'll soon find out, our hotel is located on the famous Wenceslas Square pedestrian area, an amazing location offering a little something for everyone in our group. Within easy walking distance of our hotel, you'll find a number of theaters, museums, and historical monuments.

Sunday, October 9 – PRAGUE (B,L)

This morning we'll receive an introduction to Prague, one of the most beautiful and interesting of all European capitals. We'll see the Municipal House, Prague's most prominent Art Nouveau building, and the National Museum, before traveling across the Vltava River to make a stop at the magnificent Charles Bridge. Prague's most familiar landmark is the pedestrian bridge offering locals and visitors alike a virtual outdoor museum of no less than 30 religious statues. Our tour will end in the Old Town Square where we'll visit the Church of Our Lady before Týn and view the superbly preserved medieval astronomical clock and its moving figures of the apostles, and the magnificent houses that surround the square. Afterward, we'll enjoy a hearty Czech lunch at the Restaurant U Fleku, without a doubt the most famous pub in Prague.

Monday, October 10 – PRAGUE (B)

Our day begins 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. Next, 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.

Following our tour, the afternoon is free. Historic Prague's three districts include the Lesser Quarter, the Old Town, and the New Town. The Lesser Quarter is located on the left bank of the Vltava River at the foot of the majestic Hradcany Castle. Free of traffic and ringed with historic buildings, Prague's Old Town ranks among the finest anywhere. Pending scheduling

– an optional evening theater performance will be offered as Prague is without a doubt, one of the greatest classical music destinations of the world.

Tuesday, October 11 – PRAGUE (Brno) (B,L)

This morning we leave Prague and travel to Moravia to visit the city of Brno, the Czech Republic's second largest city which has a long and rich history. We'll begin our tour high atop Petrov Hill for a sweeping view of Brno and visit the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul. An icon of the Brno skyline, this 18th-century hilltop Gothic cathedral boasts an impressive Gothic exterior and richly decorated Baroque interior. Afterward, we'll explore the Old Town by visiting historic Zelný trh square, the oldest part of the city, popular for its markets, cafes, restaurants, and boutique shops and galleries. Next, we'll discover the labyrinth underneath Zelný trh square. We'll learn how food, beer and wine were once stored here, how it was used as a hideout during wars, and see a collection of archaeological findings. Our time in Brno will end following a visit to Špilberk Castle. This leading royal castle and seat of the Moravian margraves, gradually transformed into a monumental Baroque fortress, the toughest prison of the Austrian monarchy and later a military barracks. Today it is home to the Brno City Museum.

Wednesday, October 12 – PRAGUE

(Ruckl glassworks & Karlstejn Castle) (B,L)

Today we leave Prague and travel to the town of Nížbor where we'll visit Ruckl glassworks, one of the oldest and most traditional Czech glassworks. During our guided tour, we'll have an opportunity to see the traditional techniques of glass production where each step of the crystal production is explained and presented, as well as the art of hand blowing, the craftsmanship of the cutters, and have time for shopping. Afterward, we'll set our sights on Karlstejn Castle, one of the most impressive High Gothic castles in the Czech Republic. 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 us back six centuries in time to a day when Prague lay at the center of the Holy Roman Empire.



Thursday, October 13 – PRAGUE (Cesky Krumlov) (B,L)

This morning 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 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.



Friday, October 14 – PRAGUE

(Kutna Hora & Sedlec)

(B,RD)

Today we travel east of Prague to Kunta Hora. The town originated as a small mining community in the second half of the 13th century when rich deposits of silver were found. Upon discovery, the king took over the licensing of the mines and Kunta Hora later became the second most important town in Bohemia. We'll enjoy a walking tour of the medieval town and a visit to the Italian Court, Kunta Hora's former Royal Mint that once produced the Prague groschen. We'll also see a wonderful example of Bohemian Gothic when we visit the Church of St. Barbara with its three massive and tent-shaped spires rising above a forest of flying buttresses. On our return to Prague, we'll visit the ghoulish, but fascinating, 12th century Gothic Ossuary Chapel at Sedlec. The site holds

40,000 sets of bones arranged in the shape of gigantic bells and cherubs. However, the main draw is a chandelier made of all the bones of the human body.

Tonight, we'll enjoy an unforgettable experience of a Czech Folklore show with dinner. A wonderful ensemble of dancers and musicians dressed in traditional clothing will entertain us, and you're more than welcome to join in and take an active part in learning the songs, dances, and games!

Saturday, October 15 – PRAGUE / CHICAGO (B,I)

This morning we travel to Prague's Václav Havel 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 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 Lufthansa German Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guide.
- Accommodations in first-class hotels.
- All meals as shown 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 hotels.
- **Taxes for included ground services, and airline taxes and fuel surcharge of \$530 per person.**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees and destination entry requirements; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to Motorcoach Driver(s), Tour Guide, and Step-on Guides; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TRAVEL PROGRAM LLC PROGRAM TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservation deposits and payments may be made by check. Tour prices increase every year. Therefore, please note that price increases could occur after the printing of this brochure and 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 may be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your tour investment from tour cancellation/interruption penalties and to provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial tour deposit can make you eligible for (1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and (2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Plus and Elite Options). If you wish to take advantage of these special options, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial tour deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387 or my.travelinsure.com/niu. Considering recent global events, including without limitation, the global pandemic, it is strongly recommended that all travelers purchase additional insurance to protect their travel purchase.

No Liability: By participating in this Program, you understand and agree that the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC ("AATP") and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any liabilities, claims, causes of action, damages, fees, costs, and expenses of any kind relating to any tour cancellation, tour interruption and/or delay; baggage loss, theft, damage, or delay; accident and/or sickness medical expenses, accidental death; and worldwide emergency medical evacuation and assistance arising out of or in any way related to this Program.

RESPONSIBILITY

AATP does not conduct the tours and does not act as agent for any participants interested in tours. AATP acts solely as a facilitator with independent tour operators, with whom tour participants directly make arrangements for completing travel. As a courtesy only, AATP acts as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during or after your tour. AATP strongly encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with all the tour operator's terms and conditions, including without limitation, their cancellation and refund policies. AATP strongly encourages you to investigate all available insurance options from third parties. AATP and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for any monetary losses or additional expenses of any kind arising out of or related in any way to your travel.

AATP does not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program. AATP does not act as agent for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations, or any other travel related services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AATP is not liable for any negligent, intentional, or willful act by any such person or entity. In addition and without limitation, AATP is not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property, or any accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature whatsoever arising out of or related in any way to any accommodations, transportation or other services, or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses that may be incurred. AATP, in its sole and exclusive discretion reserves the right to withdraw its affiliation with any individual tour operator should conditions warrant.

Tour Operator. The tour operator, supplier of services, or their respective affiliates, officers, directors, trustees, employees, agents or other representatives (collectively "Tour Operator") shall not be responsible for or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation, for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond their control or occurring without their fault or negligence.

The Tour Operator reserves the right to:

1. 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.
2. Substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories.
3. Decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour.

No Refunds. 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.

No Travel Carrier Liability. The travel carriers involved in this Program are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or other conveyance. The passage contract in use by any travel carrier, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the travel carrier and the purchaser of this Program tour.

For more information, contact Pat Anderson at 815-753-1512 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.

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

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