

Budapest, Vienna & Prague with Zoomer Travel Club

11 days | 15 days with Kraków & Warsaw extension

Dotted with hilltop castles, ornate cathedrals, and imperial palaces, Vienna, Budapest, and Prague will captivate you. Spend a few days getting to know each of these dynamic cities —you'll discover their vivid World War II history, radical art movements, and unique local cultures.

Included highlights

Hungarian Parliament Building
Matthias Church
Danube River
Bratislava
Schönbrunn Palace
Ringstrasse
Prague Castle
St. Vitus Cathedral

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 3 hours daily across mostly flat terrain with some cobblestone streets, hills, and stairs.

Group size

14–38

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Budapest today.

Budapest → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Budapest

Included meals: dinner

Welcome to Hungary! Meet your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Budapest

Included meals: breakfast

Discover the major landmarks of both Buda and Pest in the city that straddles east and west.

- Trace this nation's stormy history at Heroes' Square
 - Tour the lavishly decorated Hungarian Parliament building
 - Cross the Danube and ascend Castle Hill
 - Take in the breathtaking views from Fisherman's Bastion
 - Visit the medieval Matthias Church, once the site of Hapsburg coronations
- Enjoy a free evening in Budapest or add an excursion.

(Budapest: A Walk Behind the Iron Curtain may be offered on day 4, depending on the day of the week.)

+ Budapest: A Walk Behind the Iron Curtain

Day 4: Unicum liqueur tasting

Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting, dinner
Spend a free day in Budapest.

Tonight, sample and uncover the history of Unicum liqueur, Hungary's national drink.

- Visit the Zwack Unicum Heritage Visitors' Centre to learn about the Zwack family, the liquor's secret formula, and how its creation follows the area's turbulent history
 - Sample a few varieties of the aperitif and view the museum's staggering collection of miniature bottles
 - Head to a nearby wine cellar to enjoy a Hungarian dinner accompanied by wine pairings chosen by a local sommelier who'll tell you about each selection
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Vienna → 3 nights

Day 5: Vienna via Bratislava

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

En route to Vienna, stop in Bratislava, the Slovakian capital city, for free time to explore on your own.

In Vienna, sit down to an included dinner with your group.

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Vienna

Included meals: breakfast

Get transported back to the Age of Empires on a guided tour of Vienna.

- Enter Schönbrunn Palace, the Rococo Hapsburg home with impressive gardens
 - Travel down the Ringstrasse, Vienna's tree-lined thoroughfare
 - See the Parliament building, the Vienna State Opera, and the grand Hofburg Palace, the Hapsburg's winter residence
 - Learn about Ludwig van Beethoven, who would be celebrating his 250th birthday in 2020, as you explore the Beethoven Museum
 - See where the classical composer wrote works such as The Tempest and Eroica
- Enjoy free time in Vienna or add an excursion.
+ Traditional Viennese Heurigen Evening

Day 7: Melk, Danube River cruise, Dürnstein & wine tastin

Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting

Get to know the history and flavors of the region today.

- Travel to Melk for a visit to one of Europe's most beautiful Baroque monasteries, an architectural wonder perched high atop a cliff
 - Enjoy some free time in the charming, red-roofed town
 - Embark on a leisurely cruise down the Danube River past age-old castles and picturesque villages
 - Disembark in Dürnstein, where Richard the Lionheart was held captive, and enjoy free time for lunch
 - En route to Vienna, stop in the Wachau Valley for a wine tasting of regional vintages
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Prague → 3 nights

Day 8: Travel to Prague

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Drive through the pastoral landscapes of Bohemia on your way to Prague, one of Europe's most beautiful cities.

Later, sit down to an included dinner with your group.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Prague

Included meals: breakfast

Discover why Prague is known as "The City of One Hundred Spires" on a guided tour.

- Visit Prague Castle, from which Charles IV governed the Holy Roman Empire
- Admire the soaring Gothic vaults of St. Vitus Cathedral
- Walk down to the Malá Strana district to sip a coffee at a local cafe
- Cross the elegant Charles Bridge for breathtaking views of the city
- Stroll through Old Town Square to view the 15th-century Astronomical Clock

Day 10: Château Sychrov

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Spend a free day in Prague or add an excursion. Tonight, make your way through the Czech countryside to visit Château Sychrov.

- Take a private tour of the 17th-century, Neo-Gothic castle
 - Admire the intricate wood carvings on the ceilings, colorful walls, and built-in furniture as you explore the rooms
 - Attend a private recital of classic Czech music performed by some of Prague's most cherished musicians
 - Conclude the evening by enjoying a private farewell dinner at an on-site restaurant featuring regional specialties and local beer or wine
- Please note: The château does not have heat or air conditioning, therefore we recommend dressing accordingly based on the season.*
+ Walking Tour of Prague's Jewish Quarter
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Flight Home

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or extend your stay to visit Salzburg.

+ Kraków & Warsaw extension

Kraków → 2 nights

Day 11: Travel to Kraków

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Pass through the dramatic landscapes of Moravia before reaching the historic Polish city of Kraków. Then, sit down for an included dinner.

Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Kraków

Included meals: breakfast

Meet your local guide for a tour of Kraków, Poland's former royal capital.

- Discover Wawel Hill, perched high above the Vistula River
- Visit Wawel Cathedral, where Polish kings were crowned
- Stroll through Główny Square
- Pass beautiful Sukiennice Cloth Hall, the Jagiellonian University, and Oskar Schindler's Enamel Factory

Enjoy free time in Kraków or add an excursion.

+ Auschwitz

Warsaw → 2 nights

Day 13: Travel to Warsaw

Included meals: breakfast

Travel to Warsaw, Poland's capital city.

Day 14: Sightseeing tour of Warsaw

Included meals: breakfast

On a guided tour, get to know Warsaw, a city all but destroyed during World War II and painstakingly rebuilt since 1944.

- Enter the Palace of Culture and Science, Poland's tallest building, and take in sweeping views of the surrounding city
- See the Chopin monument at Łazienki Park
- Visit the Jewish Ghetto and the Jewish Memorial
- Walk through the Old Town
- Discover Starego Miasta Square's Renaissance facades and Baroque townhouses

Tonight, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members. Then, spend free time in Warsaw or add an excursion.

+ Chopin Recital & Dinner

Day 15: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.ca/KIB | 1-800-754-5066

Day 3: Budapest: A Walk Behind the Iron Curtain

\$135CAD/\$145CAD* (4 hours, departs in the morning)

Discover the turbulent, tragic, and heroic history of the Communist period in Budapest on today's excursion. Your guided sightseeing tour passes the Parliament building, which was the starting place of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and still shows signs of damage from the Soviet invasion. Visit Liberty Square, home to the U.S. Embassy, a statue of Ronald Reagan, and the only remaining monument to Communist troops. From St. Stephen's Basilica, take the historic Metro Line 1 up the iconic Andrásy Avenue. Stop for an included coffee and piece of cake amidst the Neo-Renaissance splendor of a historic cafe. End the day at the House of Terror, where you will take a guided tour through this chilling museum and view the moving monument to the victims of Communism and Fascism in Hungary.

This excursion takes you to some of the most chilling sites in Europe: the concentration camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau. More than 4 million people were systematically exterminated in these camps by the Third Reich during World War II. Liberated by the Red Army in 1945, Auschwitz has been turned into a poignant memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. Take a guided tour which includes views of chambers and prisoner buildings. Afterward, drive to nearby Birkenau, the second portion of the larger Auschwitz concentration camp complex. Embark on a guided tour before returning to Kraków. Please note: Full passport information is required to purchase tickets to Auschwitz. Travelers who have not confirmed passport information may do so by logging in to My Account or contacting Customer Experience. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 6: Traditional Viennese Heurigen Evening

\$165CAD/\$175CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

After a brief drive, your first stop is Vienna's Prater Ferris Wheel. Take a breezy ride to the top, which offers a one-of-a-kind view of the city. Next, continue on to a picturesque village and sit down at local restaurant where you'll indulge in a festive night of music, food, and entertainment. Dinner will feature dishes typical of traditional Austrian Heurigen, or wine taverns. During your meal, you'll have the chance to try some of the tavern's own locally made wine—the perfect addition to your cozy, Old-World setting.

Day 14: Chopin Recital & Dinner

\$165CAD/\$175CAD* (5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

This evening, enjoy a private recital featuring the music of Frédéric-François Chopin. Born in 1810, Chopin is widely considered the world's best composer for piano, an instrument that's featured prominently in his compositions. Tonight, experience Chopin's genius firsthand as a pianist plays some of his greatest masterpieces. Then, sample local specialties at one of Warsaw's finest restaurants during an included dinner.

Day 10: Walking Tour of Prague's Jewish Quarter

\$159CAD/\$169CAD* (3.5 hours, departs in the afternoon, lunch included)

Head to Josefov, Prague's Jewish Quarter, nestled between the Vltava River and Old Town Square. You'll enjoy a lunch of regional specialties at a nearby restaurant and join a local guide for a walking tour of the Quarter's remains, which survived devastation during World War II and oppression during the Communist era. Afterward, pay a visit to the Jewish Museum of Prague, housed in a collection of former synagogues, one of which displays the names of all the Czechs sent to concentration camps. You'll learn about the Golem myth, a story forever entwined with Prague's Jewish history, and see sites once frequented by Franz Kafka, the enigmatic author of "The Trial" and "Metamorphosis." Please note: This excursion involves a significant amount of walking and standing. On some departures, this excursion will begin with the walking tour of the Jewish Quarter and end with lunch at a local restaurant.

Extension excursion options

Day 12: Auschwitz

\$89CAD (6 hours, departs in the afternoon)

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms