

DISCOVERING THE SLAVIC COUNTRIES: CZECHIA, POLAND AND SLOVAKIA

SLAVIC METROPOLES, TECHNICAL MONUMENTS, POPULAR TRADITIONS
AND TYPICAL WOODEN ARCHITECTURE



DAY 1 – PRAGUE – CITY OF LEGENDS

On arrival to **Prague** (UNESCO), our guide will welcome you and give you a sightseeing tour in one of the most picturesque capitals in Europe. You'll **cruise** down the Vltava river in the evening with dinner and music, with a view of the **Prague castle** and **Charles Bridge**. Overnight stay in Prague.

OPTIONAL /IN ADDITION

Concert of classical music from the Czech composers – Antonín Dvořák, Bedřich Smetana, Gustav Mahler.



OPTIONAL /IN ADDITION
Visit of **an entertainment complex** in the centre of **Liberec**. The complex includes **funfair, aquapark and IQ science centre**. This multi-functional complex is very popular and is suitable for everyone, regardless of age.

DAY 2 – BOHEMIA – PATRON SAINT OF THE CZECHS (170 KM)

Departure for the historical town of **Stará Boleslav** in the morning. We will follow in **the footsteps of Saint Wenceslas**, the patron saint of the Czech Republic, who was murdered in Stará Boleslav. Visit of a pilgrimage place. We will continue to Mělník which is located on a confluence of two "national" rivers: **the Vltava and Elbe**. The hill Říp, where ancestor Čech installed his tribe, is nearby. In the afternoon, we will arrive in Liberec. We will take a cable car to **the top of Ještěd**, where you can admire the famous television transmitter, a creation for which architect K. Hubáček received the Perret prize in 1969. You can have coffee or tea in the restaurant which is inside. Overnight stay in Liberec.



DAY 3 – POLAND – THE COUNTRY OF CHURCHES (218 KM)

We will leave for Poland after breakfast. We will stop by one of the **very old wooden church in Silesia or Lesser Poland**, where you can admire its beautiful painted interior. There is the possibility to visit one of the evangelical churches in the villages Swidnica and Jawor, or a Catholic church in Debno, Binarowa, Lipnica Murowana, Haczow and Blizne which are listed as UNESCO Heritage sites. You will then visit Wroclaw, capital of the region Silesia which is also called the **"Venice of Poland"** because of its numerous islands and bridges on the **Oder river**. Wroclaw is one of the oldest towns in Poland; it is well known for its brick-work **architecture**, majestic gothic town hall, the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist, and also for its little statues of dwarfs. Overnight stay in Wroclaw.



OPTIONAL /IN ADDITION

It is possible to extend your stay by one night in Lusatia and go on an excursion to Bautzen. This medieval town is decorated with many stone towers. A strong West Slavic ethnic group, the Sorbs, inhabited the region of Lusatia, and these Sorbs have their own history, culture, language, literature and folklore. We recommend extending your stay overnight for reasons of comfort.

DISCOVERING THE SLAVIC COUNTRIES: CZECHIA, POLAND AND SLOVAKIA

DAY 4 – POLAND – INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE (300 KM)

Arrival to the **Wieliczka Salt Mine**, a unique underground mine which is listed as a UNESCO Heritage site. You will visit the underground chambers and the chapel, see the statues sculpted in salt and hear an exposé about the history of mining. This is followed by an evening sightseeing tour of **the old town of Kraków, which is situated on the Vistula River**. Kraków has traditionally been a seat of Polish sovereigns; their residence has always been in Wawel Castle. St. Mary's Basilica makes up part of the Wawel complex and Pope John Paul II used to serve Mass here as an Auxiliary Bishop. Overnight stay in Cracovie.

OPTIONAL /IN ADDITION

Instead of visiting the salt mines (100 km more) you can go to **Ostrava**, the former industrial centre in Silesia and take a tour of **the Cultural Heritage of the Vítkovice Ironworks**, which is owned by the Rothschild family. You will take a tour of the blast furnace and from the top you can have a panoramic view. Eventually, you can take a "Coal Tour" which includes a visit of the coal mine Hlubina. One of the biggest music festivals in the Czech Republic, "Colours of Ostrava" takes place here every summer.



9

10

11

12



13



14



15



16

DAY 5 – POLAND – SLOVAKIA – WONDERFUL MOUNTAINS (320 KM)

We will be crossing the High Tatra Mountains, the longest mountain range in the country, and will stop in **Zakopane**, the most significant Polish ski resort. **The original and very popular wooden architecture** is worth seeing, as is the ethnographic exhibition. The second stop will be on the Slovak side, near the beautiful mountain lake, Štrbské pleso. You will go for a walk to breathe some fresh air and have a snack (coffee and dessert) on a terrace. Departure and overnight stay in Banská Štiavnica.



DAY 6 – SLOVAKIA – NATURAL SPRINGS (252 KM)

In the morning, we will pay a quick visit of **Banská Štiavnica, a unique mining town (UNESCO)** with historical monuments and well preserved medieval mines. On the way to Bratislava, we will stop in **the thermal baths of Podhájská**. It is a place of real regeneration, and you can take a bath here even in the winter thanks to the pleasant temperature of the water. In the afternoon, we will arrive in **Bratislava**, the city spread along the riverbanks of Danube, and you will take a sightseeing tour. You can admire the castle, presidential palace, National Theatre, old town and Saint Martin's Cathedral. Overnight stay in Bratislava.

OPTIONAL /IN ADDITION

En route to Bratislava you can stop in **koliba (a rustic restaurant)** and taste Slovak traditional cuisine – halušky (gnocchi with bacon and sheep cheese), some goose dishes and trdelník (sweet pastry).



17



18



DAY 7 – RETURN – DEPARTURE FROM VIENNA – PRAGUE – BRNO

OPTIONAL /IN ADDITION

As **Vienna** is not very far, there is a possibility to arrange a visit of the town; and if you prefer, you can plan your departure from here. If you are leaving from Prague, you can make a quick stop in **Slavkov (Austerlitz), near Brno**, and visit the **Cairn of Peace Memorial which remembers the Battle of three Emperors**.

OPTIONAL /IN ADDITION

You can extend your excursion by **2 nights and spend them in Warsaw, the capital of Poland**. You can visit the historic centre and follow in the footsteps of **composer Frédéric Chopin**.

RATES April – October (except public holidays)

starting from 416 €/ person in double room (base 30 pax)

SERVICES INCLUDED :

- 6 nights in 3* hotel with half board in Prague, Liberec, Wrocław, Kraków, Banská Štiavnica, Bratislava
- services of English speaking guide
- services of local guides
- admissions to: cable car to Ještěd, Wieliczka, a church in Świdnica, Museum of Zakopane, thermal spa

Starting from
**416 €/person in
a double room**

- 2 coffees with cakes, cruise with dinner
- local taxes

ADDITIONAL SERVICES:

- lunches
- coach transport
- see blue boxes

Photo credits and copyrights: 0 Parafia Ewangelicko-Augsburska – Kościół Pokoju ; 1 CENTRUM BABYLON ; 2 Wikimedia commons ; 3 Zámek Mělník ; 4 Blanulak / Wikimedia Commons ; 5 Bernd Gute / Wikimedia Commons ; 6,9,11 licence Polska Organizacja Turystyczna ; 7-8 Jens-Michael Bierke ; 10 NPK Dolní oblast Vítkovice ; 12 K.Kobus / Polska Organizacja Turystyczna ; 13 Medictour Joanna Kuśnierz ; 15-16 The Tatra Museum in Zakopane collection ; 14,17-18 Slovenská agentúra pre cestovný ruch ; 19 © andyBox-Images/Fotky&Foto