





FLY FROM USA ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCT 10, 2024

Day 1 – Thursday, Oct 10 Meet up at Munich airport by 11:00 AM and take the bus 3.5 hours towards Czechia. We cross the border and journey through the "Sudetenland," on our way to <u>Český Krumlov</u>. Once we exit the bus, we walk 550m into the heart of the old town where no busses are allowed. You'll get the feel for the place as the castle towers over us and the river rumbles by. A typical Czech meal with a fair amount of the local beer is on tap! The town of Český Krumlov is located in the South Bohemian Region of the Czech Republic. Situated on both banks of the Vltava (Moldau) river, the town was built below a magnificent castle founded in the 13th century.



Day 2 – Friday, Oct 11: After breakfast at the hotel, we engage a local guide to give us the lay of the land and tell us about the history of this charming town. In the afternoon, we tour the imposing castle and then enjoy free time before meeting back up for dinner with the group.

The Historic Centre of Český Krumlov is an outstanding example of a small Central European medieval town whose architectural heritage has remained intact thanks to its peaceful evolution over more than several centuries. This feudal town, a former center of a large estate owned by powerful noble families who played an important role in the political, economic and cultural history of Central Europe, was founded in the Middle Ages and underwent Renaissance and Baroque transformations.





Day 3 – Saturday , Oct 12. Departing after breakfast, we drive about 1 hour to the storied Budweiser Brewery. No relation to the American company who stole the name, these guys do things old school and the beer is really great. After a tasting, we continue to Prague and will be there in about two hours. Since our hotel is located in the pedestrian area, we will have to leave our bus and make a little hike to check in at <u>Hotel Čertovka</u>, right next to the Charles Bridge. In the evening we enjoy dark beer at the worldfamous <u>U Fleku</u> from 1410. For dinner it's the famous Czech Goulash with bohemian dumplings, of course!

Day 4 – Sunday, Oct 13: A local guide takes us a walking tour of Prague's old town and then we'll have a late lunch together before you can set off for some free exploration. Prague's music scene, especially Jazz and classic, is well known or take in some Black Light Theater or see the Marionettes.







Day 5 – Monday, Oct 14 After breakfast at the hotel, we take the tram up the hill to the Strahov Monastery for lunch at Pivovar St. Norbert. After lunch, walk across the square to one of the Czech Republic's most beautiful monastic libraries. We then walk down to the imposing Prague Castle. From here, you can opt to visit the castle and cathedral on your own, or head back into the old town for an evening of free time.



Day 6 – Tuesday, Oct 15. After breakfast, we transport our luggage ourselves using the Prague subway to the main train station, Praha hlavní nádraží. From there, we board a train to Dresden. The ride get very interesting as we roll through the National Park known as the "Saxon Switzerland." After checking in at <u>Hotel Bilderberg Bellevue</u> directly on the Elbe River, we tour the old town with a local guide with a stop at the Frauenkirche. The city center was obliterated from the fire-bombing of Dresden 2 ½ months before the end of WWII, but now much of its magnificent architecture has been restored to its former glory. After the tour, we'll stop in for a typical Sächsiche dinner.



Day 7 – Wednesday, Oct 16. A short train ride takes us back to Saxon Switzerland and we take the ferry The sandstone formations in the adjoining national park are unforgettable and you'll have a chance to hike up to the Bastei for amazing views of the Elbe River and the National Park. It's a 45-minute walk up with lots of stairs to conquer, but the view is worth it and there is a beer at the top!

Later in the day we hope to pay a visit to either Königstein Fortress or Albrechtsburg in nearby Meissen.

Day 8 – Thursday, Oct 17: Today we board the EC train for the 3-hour ride to Berlin Hauptbahnhof. Once there, we take the subway to our hotel at Alexanderplatz and then meet up with our guide for a tour of the city.

Berlin exudes history at every turn and our local guide will unlock the rich history of the German capital. In the evening, we try some of the Berliner Weisse beer!



Day 9: Friday, Oct 18: We ride out to Potsdam and visit the <u>Ceclienhof</u> where the (in)famous Potsdam Agreement was signed. Lunch at the <u>Maierei Biergarten</u>, then over the <u>Glienicke</u> Bridge of Spies to the <u>Allied Museum</u>. Free time in the evening. **CENTRAL EUROPE TOUR**





Day 10 Saturday, Oct 19: A Free day of options to explore Berlin on your own

- Boat Tour on the Spree River
- OympiaStadion Tour
- Visit the Berliner Cathedral
- Visit a Museum on Museum Islandⁱ
 - Drive a Trabant
- German History Museum
- The Story of Berlin
- Alexander Platz TV Tower
- Berlin from Below
- History & making of chocolate
- German Technical Museum

Farewell Dinner at Hofbräuhaus Berlin



Day 11 Sunday, Oct 20. Depart from Berlin airport. Transfer on own.

Pricing (Main Trip)

Minimum Number of Participants 20	20 - 26
Per Person, for 2 people sharing a room with 2 beds	\$ 3,470
1 Person in a room with 1 bed	\$ 4,870

Services Include:

- Lodging for 10 nights
- Breakfast Daily at hotel
- One other group meal daily including two beverages (i.e., 0,3 0,5-liter beers, 0,2-liter wines, 0,3/0,4 liter Soft Drinks or 0,33 liter waters).
- Private bus from MUC Airport to Cesky Krumlov & Cesky Krumlov to Prague. Public trains for all other journeys.
- English/German (Not Czech!) speaking guide & Diplom BierSommelier for the entire time of the tour.
- Airline Ticket not included: You should book your flight to Munich (MUC) with enough time for you to meet the group at 11:00 AM to depart the airport, or plan on getting downtown on your own.
- Tickets on Departure Day are not included, but we will help you secure the correct ticket.

Physical Requirements: Many of the areas we are in are pedestrian-only areas, so walking is the only way to see them. We average 5.5 miles of walking each day. While it's very rare that we walk at a sustained pace uninterrupted, you should be able to cover 1 mile in no more than 25 minutes. You must also handle your own luggage. There are some situations where we can't get our bus right up to the hotel, so you will need to haul your own baggage some distance. When we use the train, you will have to contend with steps on occasion.

Payment Terms: At the time of your reservation a nonrefundable down-payment in the amount of \$500 per person is required. On July 1, 2024, the final payment by check is due. There is no refund, so we strongly recommend travel insurance. Payment is by check only Group travel insurance is required.

However, if BayernTrips cancels the trip, you will receive a full refund.



CENTRAL EUROPE TOUR



Registration Deadline: This trip is being offered only to First Class Travel and their designated attendees. If by February 29, 2024, less than 10 people have signed up, we will either cancel the trip, open it up to the general public, or drop the private buses and do the entire trip using the train.

Food Allergies and Medical Information: Before your reservation is confirmed with us, you must disclose any medical issues which interfere with the enjoyment of your trip or impact other travelers. Also, if you have any food allergies, unusual food requirements, etc. you must inform us up front.



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Your Guides

Scott Stephens is US-American and is fluent in German, having studied in Kassel, Germany. His undergraduate work was in German Language studies and European History at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. For over 20 years Scott was co-owner of <u>Ironwood Plastics, Inc</u>, located in Upper Michigan and Two Rivers, Wisconsin. Now a <u>Diplom Bier Sommelier</u>, he lives in Munich full time and has operated <u>BayernTrips LLC</u> since 2005. He is the first non-Bavarian-born-member of the *Aventinus-Buam*. His passion for the Bavarian culture and history has made him an authority on all things Bavarian!



Vonia Stephens handles the administrative work but also gets involved during the tour. She keeps everyone together, handles all the money, and often provides an alternative program for the non-beer aficionados or those who need a break. Scott & Vonia spent several years in the hospitality industry at <u>Grand Hotel</u> on <u>Mackinac Island</u>, Michigan. Together they own a small stake in <u>Cedar Springs Brewing Company</u> in lower Michigan, have two sons - 1 of whom is a Master of Brewing in Lancaster, PA

ⁱ Berlin Museums are incredibly popular and sell out - book well in advance if this is on your "must-do" list