



Travel with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte Magical Journey through Mittel Europa: Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia

**Optional two-day extension in Vienna available*



May 5th – 17th, 2017 (13 days)

Please contact Ljubomir (L.J.) Stambuk, President & CEO of the World Affairs Council of Charlotte via [email](#) or call 704-687-7760 if you have questions or need more information about the trip.

If you're interested in traveling with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, confirm your interest via [email](#) or call 704-687-7762.

Prices for the trip can be found on Page 20 below. A deposit of \$500 is due no later than March 13th, 2017 to secure your seat for the trip. Full payment is due by March 24th, 2017.

***We will offer an optional, two-day extension in Vienna. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested in this exclusive opportunity.**

Day 1: Friday, May 5th, 2017

Charlotte/Munich/Warsaw

Depart from Charlotte-Douglas International Airport at 6:30 p.m. via Lufthansa German Airlines nonstop service to Munich. The group will arrive in Munich the following morning at 9:30 am. Time-appropriate meals and in-flight entertainment will be provided.

Day 2: Saturday, May 6th, 2017

Warsaw

Depart from Munich via Lufthansa flight to Warsaw, Poland at 11:00 a.m. The flight arrives in Warsaw, Poland at 12:30 p.m.

Welcome to Poland

After clearing customs, proceed with your tour manager by private motor coach to your beautiful landmark hotel, the elegant [Polonia Palace Hotel](#) (two nights). The Polonia Palace Hotel is an historic hotel that offers excellent comfort in a perfect location at the heart of Warsaw.



[Warsaw](#)

Being one of the oldest hotels in Warsaw - Polonia Palace Hotel - was opened on 14th July 1913. Count Konstanty Przeździecki had invested 1100 000 rubles in its premises and managed the hotel till 1939. His family had already been known for administering European Hotel in Warsaw, built by his grandfather, Aleksander. The name 'Polonia Palace' was not a random choice – this was a Period of Partition and such a strong patriotic accent in the heart of Vistula Land's capital was supposed to raise the spirits of its inhabitants. [Read More](#)



[Polonia Palace Hotel](#)

Independent lunch

After time to settle in and relax from the trans-Atlantic journey, you and your fellow travelers will meet for a walking orientation tour of the area near the hotel.

Photo gallery: [Polonia Palace](#)



[Polonia Palace Hotel Interior](#)

[Warsaw](#) is the capital and largest city in Poland. Ideally situated approximately 200 miles from both the Baltic Sea and the Carpathian Mountains, Warsaw is nestled just along the Vistula River. With its earliest known historical reference in the year 1313, the city of Warsaw is now ranked one of the most livable cities in the world.



[Warsaw](#)

Dinner and wine at a local restaurant will follow the group's walking tour.

Welcome dinner included

Overnight at the Polonia Palace Hotel

Day 3: Sunday, May 7th, 2017

Warsaw

Complimentary breakfast included

Although more than 85 percent of Warsaw was destroyed or damaged in World War II, the city has rebuilt itself into one of Europe's most vibrant capitals, painstakingly reconstructing and repairing many historic buildings to display their former glory.

Today's full-day tour will include the Palace of Culture, Radziwill Palace, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and Constitution Square.

[The Palace of Culture](#) was constructed in 1955 by Joseph Stalin after the city of Warsaw was razed. It currently stands as the tallest building Poland and one of the tallest buildings in the European Union, and houses many cultural, scientific, and art organizations and activities. It was extraordinarily opulent in its time, intended to be "socialist in content, national in form". During its initial years of use, in addition to concerts, museums, and art galleries, it also held the Communist Party's annual meetings. [Read More](#)



[Palace of Culture](#)

[The Radziwill Palace](#), or the Presidential Palace, has had a turbulent history. Construction began in 1643 at the behest of Crown Great Hetman Stanisław Koniecpolski, one of the great landed gentry of Poland at the time. In 1674 it passed to the Radziwill family, the family whose name it still bears. The Radziwill family died out in 1813 and in 1818 the palace became the seat of the Viceroy of the Polish Kingdom under Russian occupation. In 1918, when Poland gained



[Radziwill Palace](#)

independence, it was used as the home of the Council of Ministers. During WWII during German occupation it served as German headquarters, eventually being restored to its current occupation as the seat of the Polish Ministers. [Read More](#)

Like the site of the same name in the United States of America, [The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier](#) in Warsaw is a monument to honor those who have died defending Polish freedom. As the only remaining portion of the Saski Palace, the monument contains remains of soldiers from every 20th-century battlefield, and an eternal flame and honor guard flank the commemorative spot. [Read More](#)

[Constitution Square](#) was constructed in the post-WWII years as a social realist urban project, and was intended to be the final spot of the May Day Parades. The name comes from the Stalinist Constitution adopted in July 1952. [Read More](#)

Independent lunch

In the afternoon, continue with a walking tour of the 13th and 14th century Old Town and a visit to the Jewish Quarter, including the Nozyk Synagogue and the Jewish Cemetery.

The [Old Town of Warsaw](#), or Stare Miasto, is the oldest part of Warsaw and was established in the 13th century. Systematically destroyed by the Germans after the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, the Old Town has been beautifully rebuilt using remains found via sifting through the bombed rubble. Old Town boasts beautiful markets, authentic restaurants, and a reminder of the enduring cultural depth of Poland. [Read More](#)

Travelers will also see the [Nozyk Synagogue](#). Prior to WWII, Warsaw was home to one of Europe's largest Jewish communities, with over 400 places of worship. Located in the Jewish Quarter of Warsaw, the Nozyk Synagogue is the only remaining pre-war synagogue in Poland. In addition, the group will visit the Jewish Cemetery and pay homage to the tragedy Poland experienced. The [Jewish Cemetery of Warsaw](#) houses both intentional burials dating back to the first decade of the 19th century, and mass graves from the tragedy of WWII. Prior to the war, Warsaw was home to a Jewish community of over 300,000. After the war, there were fewer than 6,000 Jews in the city. [Read More](#)



[The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier](#)



[Constitution Square](#)



[Old Town of Warsaw](#)



[Jewish Synagogue](#)

The great composer and pianist [Fryderyk Chopin](#) lived most of his early life in Warsaw. This afternoon, travelers will hear his music and the deep cultural tradition of Poland come to life at a private piano recital in one of the Warsaw palaces.

After the performance, travelers will return to the hotel and evening at leisure to enjoy fine dining in Warsaw.



[Fryderyk Chopin](#)

Independent dinner

Overnight at the Polonia Palace Hotel

Day 4: Monday, May 8th, 2017

Warsaw/Auschwitz/Krakow

Complimentary breakfast included

After breakfast, the group will depart Warsaw. You will wind your way through the rustic Polish countryside, taking in the verdant hills and lush landscape, as you make your way to Krakow.

The group's first stop will be the poignant memorial and historical museum at Auschwitz. You will spend the morning touring Auschwitz and the camp at Birkenau, which served as both a concentration camp and an extermination site during the Holocaust.

"Auschwitz-Birkenau was the principal and most notorious of the six concentration and extermination camps established by Nazi Germany to implement its Final Solution policy which had as its aim the mass murder of the Jewish people in Europe.. Between the years 1942-1944 it became the main mass extermination camp where Jews were tortured and killed for their so-called racial origins." [Read More](#)

Independent lunch

After Auschwitz-Birkenau, the group will continue to one of the finest medieval cities in Europe, Krakow, and check into your hotel, [Hotel Indigo Krakow](#), a beautiful boutique 5-star hotel located in the center of Krakow (two nights).



[Auschwitz](#)



[Krakow Main Market Square](#)



[Krakow Old Town Square](#)

Right in the heart of the city, Hotel Indigo Krakow – Old Town blends historic Polish art with contemporary style. Our elegant boutique rooms all have rainfall showers and complimentary WiFi, with subtle décor inspired by three of the country’s greatest painters. The past and the future meet in the streets around the hotel, where Wawel Castle and the Renaissance Cloth Hall on the old town’s medieval square rub shoulders with new museums, cutting-edge galleries and buzzing bars. The old town, Florianska’s shops and the vibrant nightlife of the Kazimierz district are all easily accessible on foot. [Read More](#)



[Hotel Indigo Krakow](#)



[Hotel Indigo Krakow Rooms](#)

After time to settle in to your hotel, join your group at a local restaurant in this beautiful city for dinner, with wine included.

Dinner included

Overnight at the Hotel Indigo Krakow (Five-Star)

Day 5: Tuesday, May 9th, 2017

Krakow



[Krakow Old Town](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

Today, enjoy a full day of touring Krakow, the former capital of Poland. Travelers will walk through the UNESCO World Heritage Site [Old Town of Krakow](#), visit the [Jagiellonian University](#), the [Franciscan Church](#), and the [Bishop’s Palace](#).

Krakow was the former capital of Poland and dates back to the 7th century, when it began as a hamlet on Wawel Hill. Since its humble beginnings, Krakow has grown to be one of the most important cultural, scientific, and economic hubs of Poland. During WWII Krakow served as the capital of Germany’s General Government. [Read More](#)



[Jagiellonian University](#)

[Krakow’s Old Town](#) was one of the first designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and is one of the oldest and most culturally vibrant Old Towns in Europe. Its town square was the largest of any medieval European city, and several historic landmarks are still standing for the group to explore. [Read More](#)

The group will also see [Jagiellonian University](#), the oldest university in Poland and one of the oldest universities in the



[St. Francis' Basilica](#)

world. Notable alumni include Nicolaus Copernicus, the first Renaissance astronomer to place the Sun at the middle of the universe rather than the Earth; and Wisława Szymborska, recipient of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Literature. From the Jagiellonian University the group will move on to see the Franciscan Church, which dates to the 13th century and was the residence of Pope John Paul II during his stays in Krakow; and the Bishop's Palace, the traditional residence of Krakow bishops since the 14th century and the second-largest palace in Krakow.

Independent lunch



[Wawel Royal Complex](#)

After time for an independent lunch, the group will continue to the Royal Chambers of Wawel Castle and the Wawel Cathedral. The former is the largest palace in Krakow and the seat of royalty for more than 500 years, and the latter is located the same Wawel Royal complex. The Castle now serves as an extensive art museum with five separate sections (Crown Treasury & Armoury, State Rooms, Royal Private Apartments, Lost Wawel, and Exhibition of Oriental Art). The Wawel Castle and Wawel Hill are considered to be among the most historically and culturally significant sites in Poland.

After exploring the Wawel Castle and Cathedral, the group will return to the hotel for an independent evening to enjoy local Polish specialties.

Independent dinner

Overnight at the Hotel Indigo Krakow (Five-Star)

Day 6: Wednesday, May 10th, 2017

Krakow/Slovakia/Budapest

Complimentary breakfast included

Depart this morning through dense forests and idyllic farmland as you make your way into the scenic Tatra Mountains en route to Hungary, crossing Slovakia. The group will make a lunch stop in [Zakopane](#), a breathtaking town known as the “winter capital” of Poland.

Lunch included

Continue across Slovakia, arriving in Budapest late in the



[Winter in Zakopane](#)

afternoon to check into your 5-star hotel, the [Kempinski Hotel Corvinus Budapest](#) (three nights). This evening you are free to begin exploring and enjoying Hungarian cuisine.

Welcome to Hungary

This monarchical city of Mitteleuropa charm reveals a multi-cultural past in Europe rich with Roman, Renaissance, Turkish, German and Austrian impressions, and Hungarian culture's rare ability to fuse these interactions into its own unique identity. [Kempinski Hotel Corvinus Budapest](#) helps you to explore the magic. [Read More](#)



[Kempinski Hotel Corvinus Budapest](#)

Independent dinner

Overnight at the Kempinski Hotel (Five-Star)

Day 7: Thursday, May 11th, 2017

Budapest – Pest

Complimentary breakfast included

The Danube divides [Budapest](#) into two areas- Buda and Pest, which developed separately until officially converged in 1873. Today's touring focuses on the "Pest" side, and will include visits to the [Embassy District](#), [City Park](#), and [Andrassy Avenue](#) (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Travelers will go inside the [State Opera House](#), [St. Stephen's Basilica](#), and the [synagogue at Dohany](#) (holidays permitting).



[Budapest](#)

Buda vs. Pest: One City, Two Personalities [Read More](#)

Andrassy Ut, or Avenue, was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002 and dates back to 1872. It is one of Budapest's main shopping avenues and includes many important cultural sites, including the [State Opera House](#), the former Ballet School, the [Zoltan Kodaly Memorial Museum and Archives](#), and the [Hungarian University of Fine Arts](#).



[Andrassy Ut](#)

The State Opera House opened in 1884 and was founded by the city of Budapest and Emperor Franz Josef I. The Opera gained renown and, at its peak, had nearly 50 operas in its repertoire, with nearly 130 performances annually.

Independent lunch

The afternoon will be at leisure to enjoy Pest on your own.

In the evening, join your group for a private two-hour scenic illumination cruise on the Danube River. The Danube River, source of inspiration for Johann Strauss II's classic waltz, "[On The Beautiful Blue Danube](#)", is essential to the character and development of Mittel Europa, sourcing in Germany and flowing through ten countries- more than any other river in the world.

Dinner included

Overnight at the Kepminski Hotel Corvinus Budapest (Five-Star)



[State Opera House, Budapest](#)



[Cruise on the Danube River](#)

Day 8: Friday, May 12th, 2017

Budapest- Buda

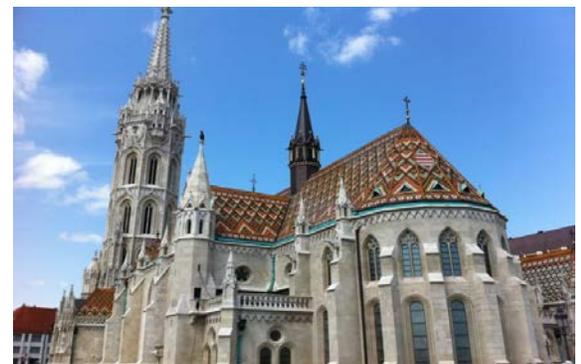
Complimentary breakfast included

Today, the group will explore the "Buda" side of the Danube, including a visit to the gothic Matthias Church. Travelers will be able to see the imposing Fisherman's Bastion looming over the Danube and stroll the quaint lanes and cobblestone streets of Castle Hill.

The gothic [Matthias Church](#) is said to have been constructed in 1015 and re-built in the gothic style in the second half of the fourteenth century. Located in Buda's Castle District, the church was the venue for the coronation of the last two Hungarian Habsburg kings, Franz Joseph in 1867 and Charles IV in 1916.

[Read More](#)

[The Fisherman's Bastion](#) is a panoramic viewing terrace built at the turn of the twentieth century and restored throughout its life. The seven spires represent the seven Magyar tribes that settled the Carpathian Basin in the 9th century, and the name stems from the guild of fishermen that was responsible for



[Matthias Church](#)



[The Fisherman's Bastion](#)

defending this stretch of the city walls in the Middle Ages. [Read More](#)

“Fisherman’s Bastion in Budapest is one of the top Budapest attractions without a doubt. The present day lovely lookout towers / decorative fortification of Fisherman’s Bastion were built in the 19th century to serve as a lookout tower for the best panoramic views in Budapest, Hungary. Needless to say, there used to be real castle walls where now you can take fantastic photos from, but the present day structure has never served as an actual fortification in Buda.” [Read More](#)

Independent lunch

The afternoon and evening are at leisure to continue exploring Budapest on your own, with perhaps a visit to the [Great Market Hall](#), the largest and oldest indoor market in Budapest. Destroyed during the Second World War, restoration work in the 1990s has brought it back to full functionality. After an independent dinner experiencing native Hungarian cuisine, travelers might be interested in enjoying an optional visit to a colorful Hungarian Roma (Gypsy) Dance Show.

Independent dinner

Overnight at Kepminski Hotel Corvinus Budapest (Five-Star)



[Parliament Building, Budapest](#)



[Castle Hill, Budapest](#)

Day 9: Thursday, May 13th, 2017

Budapest/Bratislava/Karlovy Vary

Complimentary breakfast included

Make your way from Hungary to Slovakia’s capital city, Bratislava. Discover 17 centuries’ worth of history along the cobblestoned, vehicle-free streets of the city’s Old Town, accompanied by a local guide. See the 13th-century [Old Town Hall](#) and [St. Martin’s Cathedral](#).

Welcome to Slovakia

Bratislava has always been a flourishing and prosperous town, which has made the most of its strategic position on the Danube and at the intersections of important European trade routes. In the Mediaeval period and later in the 18th century, it was a significant economic centre and later, a cultural and political



[Bratislava](#)



[Bratislava Old Town](#)

centre of Central Europe. It was thanks to its location that in the 16th Century, Bratislava became the capital and coronation town of the Hungarian Kingdom and the place, where its crown jewels were kept. For one thing, it was remote from the invading Turks, yet close to imperial Vienna, from where the whole of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was governed for almost the following 500 years. [Read More](#)

Independent lunch

After an independent lunch, continue into the Czech Republic and one of the most beautiful and charming towns in the Czech Republic- the spa town of [Karlovy Vary](#).

Welcome to the Czech Republic

Your hotel for tonight is the lovely and luxurious [Grand Hotel Pupp](#). Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant in Karlovy Vary.

The first of Grandhotel Pupp buildings was the so-called Saxony Hall, which was built by the order of the then Lord Mayor Deiml in 1701. In doing so, the Mayor of Deiml laid out the base outline for the later hotel constructions. [Read More](#)

Dinner included

Overnight at the Grand Hotel Pupp (Five-Star)

Day 10: Sunday, May 14th, 2017

Complimentary breakfast included

After breakfast, enjoy a half-day guided sightseeing tour of [Karlovy Vary](#).

Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) has stepped up its game in recent years, thanks largely to a property boom spurred by wealthy Russian investors. Indeed, the first thing you'll notice is the high number of Russian visitors, all following in the footsteps of Tsar Peter the Great, who stayed here for treatments in the early 18th century. Day trippers come to admire the grand 19th-century spa architecture and to stroll the impressive colonnades, sipping on the supposedly health-restoring sulphurous waters from spouted ceramic drinking cups. [Read More](#)



[Bratislava Skyline](#)



[Grand Hotel Pupp](#)



[Dining Room, Grand Hotel Pupp](#)

Karlovy Vary/Prague



[Karlovy Vary](#)

Located in the west Bohemia region of the Czech Republic, Karlovy Vary is home to numerous thermal springs, making it a popular resort town since the 19th century. As you walk through town, don't miss the modern Hot Spring Colonnade, which houses the Pramen Vřídlo geyser, known to spout up to 12 meters high.

Enjoy a visit to the [Becherovka Factory](#), where the recipe of this centuries old herbal liqueur is kept a secret from everyone except two employees. Containing 38 percent alcohol, it's made of an infusion of more than 20 different herbs, including anise and cinnamon.

Independent lunch

Shortly after lunch, the group will be transported to the beautiful city of Prague, arriving late in the afternoon the same day. Guests will check into their hotel, the 5-star [Grand Mark Prague Hotel](#) (three nights).

Nestled in a former baroque palace, The Grand Mark Prague creates an aura of luxury, artfully blending classical design with modern art, technology and features throughout. The location is ideal for leisure and entertainment as it is within walking distance of all the key attractions in Prague, as well as high-end designer shopping. Guest accommodations evoke the elegance and grandeur of the original castle. Design elements incorporate rich textures, fine furnishings and specially commissioned artwork to enhance the traveler's comfort and experience. In addition to all the latest luxuries, the rooms maintain a contemporary atmosphere with white-washed walls and splashes of color for contrast. The hotel's charming courtyard garden and terraces offer the perfect settings for enjoying a memorable meal, or simply relaxing in a hidden enclave in the city center. [Read More](#)

Overnight at the Grand Mark Prague (Five-Star)



[Pramen Vřídlo Geyser](#)



[Becherovka](#)



[Grand Mark Prague Hotel](#)



[Suite at Grand Mark Prague Hotel](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

Top 10 Things to do in Prague:

Rich in architecture, history and culture, the City of a Thousand Spires has drawn visitors for centuries with its fairytale castle, bridges and churches. But it also delights with hidden art deco and cubist gems, and the beer halls are a perennial favorite. [Read More](#)

Enjoy a full day of touring Prague, the largest city and the capital of the Czech Republic. Nicknamed “the City of a Hundred Spires,” it is renowned for its gothic churches, winding streets, colorful baroque buildings and the medieval [Astronomical Clock](#).

Prague was founded during the Romanesque era, but flourished during the Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. It was initially the capital of the Kingdom of Bohemia and home to several Holy Roman Emperors. [Read More](#)

This morning’s sight-seeing will begin with the Powder Tower. Completed in 1475, the [Powder Tower](#), which formerly served as a gunpowder store, is still the starting point for the Coronation or Royal Route to Prague Castle. Continue on to the [Municipal House](#), which is Prague’s foremost Art Nouveau building and one of the main attractions on Republic Square.

This monumental entrance by which the coronation processions of Czech kings entered the Old Town is one of the most significant monuments of Late Gothic Prague. Completed in 1475, the Powder Tower, which formerly served as a gunpowder store, is still the starting point for the Coronation or Royal Route to Prague Castle.” [Read More](#)

“The Municipal House stands on the site of the Royal Court, seat of Bohemia’s kings from 1383 to 1483 (when Vladislav II moved to Prague Castle), which was demolished at the end of the 19th century. Between 1906 and 1912 this magnificent art nouveau palace was built in its place – a lavish joint effort by around 30 leading artists of the day, creating a cultural center that was the architectural climax of the Czech National Revival.” [Read More](#)



[Charles Bridge, Prague](#)



[Old Town Square, Prague](#)



[Astronomical Clock, Prague](#)

Don't miss seeing the [astronomical clock](#). Approximately 600 years old, it is considered one of the city's greatest treasures. It is located near the southern wall of the Old Town City Hall in the Old Town Square. Throngs of tourists come to the square to see it announce each hour with 12 apostles passing by the window above the dial.

Every visit to Prague must include the iconic [Charles Bridge](#). As the oldest bridge in Prague, it spans 16 arches and is lined with 30 Baroque statues of religious figures.

The group will continue on to the [1000-year-old Prague Castle](#), which includes stops at St. Vitus Cathedral, Golden Lane, and the State Apartments. According to the Guinness World Records, it's the largest ancient castle in the world: 570m long, an average of 128m wide and covering a total area bigger than seven football fields. [St. Vitus Cathedral](#) is one of the best examples of Gothic architecture in Prague and the [Golden Lane](#) is a street lined with small picturesque houses that look rather like doll's houses than people's homes.

End today's adventure with a one-hour historic tram ride in Prague with music and a glass of the traditional drink.

Return to the hotel and enjoy the evening at your leisure.

Independent dinner

Overnight at the Grand Mark Prague (5-Star)

[Prague](#)



[Klementinum Library](#)



[Prague Castle](#)



[Golden Lane, Prague](#)



Complimentary breakfast included

The group will take a 5-hour excursion to [Karlštejn Castle](#), one of the most visited castles in Prague. Set over the scenic Berounka River, it bore witness to some of Bohemia's greatest historical moments.

The castle was built by Charles IV between 1348-1355 for the purpose of safeguarding the crown jewels of the Holy Roman Empire. Today, the castle is home to the replica of the Czech king's crown, the largest collection of panel paintings by Master Theodorich, and the largest portrait gallery of Czech rulers in the country.

"Karlštejn was reconstructed in the Late Gothic style after 1480 and in Renaissance style in the last quarter of the 16th century. Its present appearance is the result of the last reconstruction, which was carried out in the purist Neo-Gothic style by architect Josef Mocker at the end of the 19th century. The original step-like order of building is very impressive - you walk up from the well tower and the Burgrave's palace located as the lowest up to the majestic five-floored Imperial palace and further up toward the Marian tower. The monumental 60 m high and separately fortified Great tower stands at the top of the headland." [Read More](#)

Dinner included

In the evening, dine at one of Prague's best local restaurants and enjoy authentic Czech cuisine with wine and live music.

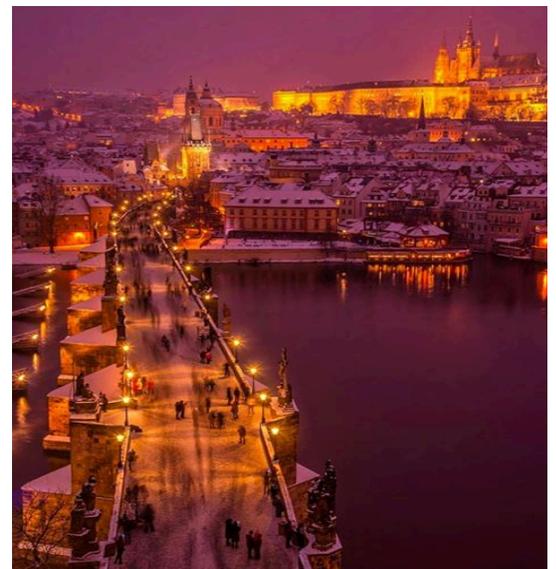
Overnight at the Grand Mark Prague (Five-Star)



[Karlštejn Castle](#)



[Crown Jewels of the Holy Roman Empire](#)



[Prague](#)

Day 13: Wednesday, May 17th, 2017

Prague/Munich/Charlotte

Complimentary breakfast included

Travelers will depart Prague this morning via Lufthansa Airlines at 9:45 a.m. The group will arrive in Munich at 10:35 a.m. and transfer to a non-stop flight to Charlotte, departing Munich at 12:15 p.m. Time-appropriate meals and in-flight entertainment will be provided.

Travelers will arrive at Charlotte Douglas International Airport at 4:20 p.m.



[Charlotte, North Carolina](#)

Welcome Home!

Day 13: With Optional Extension: Wednesday, May 17th, 2017

Prague/Vienna

Complimentary breakfast included

After breakfast travelers will depart Prague this morning at 11:20 a.m. via Austrian Airlines for a short flight to Vienna. The group will arrive in Vienna at 12:15 p.m.

Welcome to Vienna

Independent lunch

Private transfer will be available for all travelers upon arrival. There will be a stop for lunch before a panoramic coach drive through Vienna.

With its rambling palaces, winding cobbled lanes, elegant Kaffeehäuser (coffee houses) and cosy wood-paneled Beisl, Vienna is steeped in history. Yet it's also at the cutting edge of design, architecture, contemporary art, and new directions in drinking and dining. What I love most about the city is that not only does it hold on to its traditions, it incorporates them in everything from high-fashion Dirndls..." [Read More](#)



[Streets of Vienna](#)



[Sacher Hotel Vienna](#)



[Sunset in Vienna](#)

Travelers will be treated to a scenic tour on the Danube River, one of Europe's most celebrated rivers. After the cruise, travelers will be transported to their hotel, the famous [Sacher Hotel Vienna](#). Spend two nights at this old-world luxury hotel in the heart of one of Europe's most culturally significant cities. You can walk just about anywhere from the hotel or take a tram a block outside the door. Located across the street from the State Opera House, the hotel is the home of the original sacher-torte, the "most famous cake in the world since 1832."



[Sacher Hotel Vienna](#)

Enjoy your evening at leisure.

Independent dinner

OPTIONAL: Enjoy the ballet "Swan Lake" at the Vienna State Opera



[Vienna State Opera House](#)

Overnight at the Sacher Hotel Vienna (Five-star)

Day 14: With Optional Extension: Thursday, May 18th, 2017

Vienna

Complimentary breakfast included

Enjoy exploring Vienna by foot during a half-day sight-seeing tour. Begin by visiting the [Vienna State Opera House](#), indisputably one of the most prestigious opera houses in the world. Built in 1869 through the vision of architects August Sicard von Sicardsburg and Eduard Von der Nüll, it was built with Neo-Renaissance stylings fit for that time.



[Vienna State Opera House](#)

Towards the end of World War II, the Opera House was destroyed by American bombardment. It reopened in 1955 and today produces more than 50 operas and ten ballet productions with more than 350 performances a year.

Continue on to the [Habsburg Winter Residence](#), which was built in the 13th century and housed the Habsburg Emperors until 1918 during winter. Today, it's the official residence and workplace of the President of Austria. Take a quick jaunt to the [Belvedere Palace](#), which consists of two Baroque palaces built for Prince Eugene: the Lower Belvedere and the Upper Belvedere; both housing medieval art from the Austrian



[Belvedere Palace](#)

Baroque period and Austrian art from the 19th and 20th centuries.

Head to [City Hall](#) located on Rathausplatz in the Innere Stadt district and other historical buildings in the vicinity. Don't miss the opportunity to visit the [St. Stephen's Cathedral](#), where Joseph Haydn sang as a choir boy and in which Mozart was married in 1782. Built in 1147 AD, St. Stephen's Cathedral is one of the most famous Viennese sights.

Vienna's Gothic masterpiece Stephansdom is Vienna's pride and joy. A church has stood here since the 12th century. From the exterior, the first thing that will strike you is the glorious tiled roof, with its dazzling row of chevrons and Austrian eagle. Inside, the magnificent Gothic stone pulpit presides over the main nave, fashioned in 1515 by Anton Pilgrim. [Read more](#)

Head to [Schönbrunn Palace](#), the former summer residence of the imperial family and one of Europe's most impressive Baroque palace complexes. Designed by architects Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach and Nicolaus Pacassi, it showcases outstanding examples of *Gesamtkunstwerk*, remarkable gardens, and immaculate landscaping.

Independent lunch

Enjoy the afternoon sightseeing on your own.

Optional: Attend a rehearsal or show at the Spanish Riding School to see the world famous Lipizzans.

*Developed exclusively by the Hapsburg monarchy for its use during times of war and peace, the Lipizzan is the true horse of royalty. Four hundred years of selective breeding have made the Lipizzan one of Europe's oldest breeds of horse. Physically capable of withstanding the demands of the *Airs Above the Ground*, this baroque mount was bred to perform haute ecole dressage at the Spanish Riding. [Read More](#)*

In the evening, explore Vienna at leisure and find your own Viennese magic.

Independent dinner



[Marble Hall in the Upper Belvedere](#)



[Stephen's Cathedral](#)



[Schönbrunn Palace](#)



[Lipizzan Spanish Riding Show](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

This morning, transfer to the Vienna airport for departure via Lufthansa to Munich departing at 9:05 a.m. Upon arrival at 10:00 a.m. in Munich, travelers will connect with non-stop flight to Charlotte departing from Munich at 12:15 p.m. and arriving at Charlotte Douglas International Airport at 4:20 p.m.

Welcome Home!



[Charlotte, North Carolina](#)

PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY (13 Days)

*Single occupancy rate available for an additional \$1349

*International airfare from Charlotte (and back) included

15 Travelers

20 Travelers

25 Travelers

\$5395

\$4920

\$4565

Travelers must be members of good standing with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte. If you are not a member, please contact Kristina Drye, Program and Membership Manager, via e-mail at kdrye@worldaffairscharlotte.org or call 704-687-7757 or go to our [website](#) and sign up online. Individual membership starts at \$50 and is a tax-deductible donation.

***As always, air/government taxes and fuel surcharges will be billed at the prevailing rate at the time of ticketing. The current total for tax and fuel is \$495.00.

- **Single occupancy rate: \$1349**
- **If you are traveling alone, but would like a roommate, please let us know as soon as possible and we will work on matching you with another traveler.**
- **Business or First Class air travel is available. Please contact Jeff Knight (jknight111@hotmail.com) as soon as possible if you are interested in an upgrade.**
- **Air/government taxes and fuel surcharges will be billed at prevailing rate at the time of billing. Current total of taxes and fuel surcharge is approximately \$495.**
- **A deposit of \$500 is due no later than March 13th, 2017 to secure your seat for the trip. Full payment is due by March 24th, 2017.**
- **Please note that a 3% bank charge will be added to your payment if you choose to pay by credit card due to travel agency requirement. No additional charge if you pay by check.**

TWO-DAY VIENNA EXTENSION

\$1725

Single Occupancy: \$575