

# Cycling Safaris

## PRAGUE TO VIENNA 2018

### Guided Tour

Guide cycling with group | 332 km | 8 nights / 9 days



The Czech Republic is a beautiful country in central Europe. Past generations have left a wonderful treasure of cultural and historical monuments reflecting a rich and diverse history - ancient towns full of life and culture, Gothic castles and churches, Renaissance chateaux, and many examples of folk cultures. More than two thousand castles, chateaux and castle ruins have been preserved in the Czech Republic. Few countries of Europe can match its richness of historical and architectural monuments.

This tour will give you the opportunity to discover the impressive countryside of Moravia and Bohemia Lands which are still less visited corners of central Europe. The tour links the magnificent cities of Prague and Vienna with the picturesque villages of Moravia, architectural pearls of Bohemia and other natural gems of the country. Most of the days trails are through beautiful and ever changing landscape with little traffic in unspoiled countryside.

### TOUR ITINERARY

#### DAY 1 Arrive to Prague

You will be met at the Airport and transferred to your hotel in the beautiful city of Prague. On arrival in the city you can check into your hotel and then explore the city at your leisure.

#### DAY 2 Prague to Cesky Krumlov (180 km/110 miles by minibus, cycling 27 km/16 miles)

In the morning you will meet the guide who will inform you about the tour. After the briefing you will be transferred by minibus to Cesky Krumlov, where you can choose from exploring the town by yourself or take a ride to Klet; it is 26 km long round ride up to Klet hill, 1079 m asl. Total elevation gain 692 m. Dinner at the evening in the town.

#### DAY 3 Cesky Krumlov to Trebon approx. 63 km / 38 miles

We ride from our hotel, continuing through the southern Bohemian countryside to the beautiful Renaissance town of Trebon, located in a region of oak woods, meadows and large lakes. The international importance of the fishponds and lakes of this area is acknowledged by its status as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. This is also the town of one of the oldest Czech breweries, Regent. Many of the fishponds date from the 15th and 16th centuries, and we will cycle around them.

**DAY 4      Trebon to Telc      approx. 78 km / 48 miles**

Optional tour of Trebon chateau in the morning. The trail winds along many ponds and man-made lakes, so typical of this region, to Perslak, the most northern point of Austria. You will follow the border with Austria on the Greenways trail passing through Nova Bystrice, where you will have lunch. From Nova Bystrice the trail will take you through the forests of the National Park called Czech Canada. The day ends in Telc, a Renaissance town registered on the UNESCO Cultural Heritage List. Houses on the main square in Telc, with facades decorated with typically renaissance sgraffiti, form the best-preserved Renaissance square in the Czech Republic.

**DAY 5      Telc - Vranov nad Dyji      approx. 54 km / 33 miles**

Optional tour of Telc chateau in the morning. You will ride through several charming villages typical for this area of the country. We will cycle gently through the region of South Moravia. We will stay overnight in Vranov which is situated near a dam.

**DAY 6      Vranov nad Dyji - Znojmo      approx. 38 km / 24 miles**

One of the tour highlights is a bike ride through the rural setting of Podyji National Park and a visit to the remains of the Iron Curtain at the Czech - Austrian border. Znojmo, where we overnight with its medieval centre is well worth exploring. Znojmo is the gateway to the region of South Moravia, a region of wine production.

**DAY 7      Znojmo - Mikulov      approx. 70 km / 44 miles**

Today we bike on a greenways trail following the River Dyje which borders Austria, an easy trail with just one steep uphill. This flatland region is a traditional vine growing area and there are many wine cellars. Mikulov, tonight's destination is a town rich in history on the edge of the limestone Pavlovske Vrchy hills. The town sits under its large castle, destroyed by the Germans and rebuilt in the 1950's, and is now home to the town museum. In the surrounding countryside the emphasis is on vineyards and wine production.

**Day 8      Mikulov - Vienna      (50 km / 30 miles by bike & 50 km / 30 miles by minibus)**

Crossing the border and checkpoint at Mikulov, we head into Austria through vineyards, fields and small villages. While it is possible to reach Vienna by bike (96 km / 60 miles), we recommend finishing the cycle in Poysdorf (25 km) or Mistelbach (35 km) and take a car/van transfer into Vienna. Accommodation is in a centrally located hotel in the city of Vienna. The tour officially finishes on arrival in Vienna but we have included a night in the city as part of our package.

**Please note:** the support vehicle with bikes and the tour leader leave Vienna this afternoon. You can return by supporting vehicle to Prague for free, then you spend your last night in Prague.

**Day 9      Vienna departure**

After breakfast and you are free to head home at your leisure.

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**2018 TOUR PRICE**

€1190.00 per person  
+ €200.00 for single occupancy

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**2018 TOUR DATES**

**Saturday**

May 12

June 9

July 7

August 4, 25

September 22

## WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

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- 8 nights accommodation with breakfast
- 6 dinners (not included first night in Prague and last night in Vienna)
- free refreshments in the van (soft drinks, fruit, sweets, water)
- Water for bike flasks
- One guide cycling with the group
- One guide in support van
- Luggage transfer
- All maps and route details (one per room \* )
- All transportation of participants, their luggage and bicycles during the tour
- Pick up from Prague airport to Prague Hotel on the arrival day of the tour at an appointed time
- 27 speed mountain / touring bike rental, lock, water bottle, helmet.

### Not Included

- Guided Tours of Castles, Chateaux, Breweries and museums on the route
- E-bike supplement €80

(\* additional route notes can be provided at an additional €10.00 )

## ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION

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If you require additional accommodation and would like us to book it on your behalf, please let us know:-

Pre-tour night in Prague:- €60.00 per person sharing. €85.00 for single room.  
Post-tour night in Vienna:- €65.00 per person sharing. €85.00 for single room.

## WHAT TO BRING

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We would recommend that you bring padded cycling shorts and / or a gel saddle cover which will make your days cycling more comfortable. Cycling gloves are also a good investment, as are hard-sole shoes which will help protect your feet. And don't forget raingear including a rain jacket, rain pants and slip-on boots. A hat and sunglasses will protect you from getting all too much sun. Finally, please make an effort to pack lightly. This will make your travels easier and will be much appreciated with the luggage transfers.

## GROUP, GUIDE AND BACK-UP SERVICE

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There are two guides on this tour, one cycling with the group and a second in a support van. The main reason for this is that there are beautiful forest trails where the vehicle cannot always support the group. There is also the option of using simply signed routes and following the leader's instructions.

Every group is allocated one or two AVE bicycle tour leaders. They ride with and look after the group during the daily programme. They all have mobile phones to communicate with each other, the support vehicle and with group members who brought their own mobile phones and, of course, with AVE headquarters. The leaders will introduce you to the interesting points of the tour, give you basic information about places of tourist interest, and translate castle guides, when needed. They will ensure you eat and drink in suitable restaurants and pubs on the route, pay the bills and arrange all necessary communication. Tour leaders also provide first aid on the route, and carry out maintenance on the bikes for the participants.

## BIKE / FITNESS

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The bikes supplied for this tour are 27 speed mountain / touring bikes with Shimano equipment. All bikes have a pannier bag and a handlebar bag with map holder in case of guided tours (for self-guided there are also saddle bags), rear lights, bottle cage and mudguards.



As we arrange holidays for our clients, we try to make our trips as enjoyable as possible. Every day is different but generally most of days we ride between 30 to 47 miles and most of days offer more than one option. This is a moderate tour (i.e., not for beginners) in terms of difficulty. There are some hills to climb (and **occasional short off-road sections**) on this tour so we would recommend that you do some cycling before the tour in order to make your week more enjoyable, if possible do it on varied terrain and include some hill climbing. But don't forget...our guide is also on hand to give you a lift if you fancy a break from the two wheels!

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### Accommodation

All hotels are carefully checked and reviewed, and located in ideal places for the tour programme. We always stay in Standard Class hotels (three-star hotels) – all with private bathroom, SAT TV, and telephones in each room. We normally accommodate clients in double or twin rooms. On request, you can be accommodated in a triple room for a reduced price or in a single room (with a single supplement). For accommodation in Prague we use 4\* hotels.

### Arrival to Prague

The largest and main Czech airport is **Prague-Ruzyně**. Domestic flights run from Moravia to Bohemia (e.g. from Ostrava to Prague), although most flights are international. Prague-Ruzyně.

### Climate

The climate in the Czech Republic is moderate, with average summer temperatures of about 22°C (highest average temperatures 26°C ) which is yet another factor that makes the Czech Republic so ideal for cycling holidays.

**Currency** - Although the Czech Republic is a member of the EU, it is not so far a member of the Eurozone and for this reason, the euro is not the official currency here (yet despite this it is possible to exchange euro for Czech crowns without any problems). The official currency is called the crown, which is made up of 100 hellers.

**Czech Tourism** – More information for tourists visiting the Czech Republic.