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— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

3 Day Prague Extension For Pre & Post Cruises or Tour Itinerary Extensions



CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS DATES – 3 3 DAY EXTENSION ITINERARY

Day 1: Prague

Upon arrival, you will be met by your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide and be transferred to your hotel. Arrangements will be made based on your type of arrival and where you will arrive.

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be welcomed with a VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

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After check-in, you will proceed on a full day tour of Prague Castle & Old Town Prague.

Prague Castle and Strahov Monastery with a private visit to the Strahov Library rooms in the afternoon The Prague Castle complex is another must. It will give you a feel of the whole hilly part of the city before you walk through the Castle complex. Your private guide will meet you at the hotel and you will be driven to the Strahov Monastery to enjoy one of the best views over the city.



You might also visit the Strahov Library - one of the most beautiful interiors of Prague. A private visit of the two stunning rooms can be arranged upon your request.

A lot of historical movies have been shot here, e.g. the famous Milos Forman's film "Amadeus".

You continue to the New World area which used to be the home of artists and the small houses are really charming. After getting off the car at the Castle square, we admire the Archbishop's palace and the main entrance

to the Castle complex.

We continue on foot to see the St. Vitus Cathedral with its stain-glass windows, the Royal Palace with Vladislav Hall and the unforgettable and quaint Golden Lane.



The archaeological research and the oldest written sources prove that the Prague Castle was founded around the year 880 by Prince Borivoj of the house of Premyslides.

The castle site was fortified with a moat and a rampart of clay and stones. The first walled building was the Church of Virgin Mary.

Other churches, dedicated to St. George and St. Vitus, were founded in the first half of the 10th century.

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From the 10th century Prague Castle has been not only the seat of the head of state, the princes, later kings and nowadays presidents, but also of the highest representative of church, the Prague bishop.

The basilica of St. Vitus, built on the site of the original rotunda, has been the main church since the 11th century and the relics of the patron saints of the land are kept here.

The period of the rule of King and later Emperor Charles IV (the middle of the 14th century) was a time of prosperity for Prague Castle. The royal palace was magnificently rebuilt, the fortifications strengthened and the church of St. Vitus was based on the model of French Gothic cathedrals.

Another important period was the second half of the 16th century, during the rule of Rudolf II. The emperor settled permanently in Prague Castle and began to turn it into a grand and dignified centre of the empire. He founded the northern wing of the palace, with today's Spanish Hall, to house his precious artistic and scientific collections.

The Prague defenestration in 1618 started a long period of wars, during which Prague Castle was damaged and robbed. In the second half of the 18th century the last great rebuilding of the Castle was carried out, making it a prestigious castle-type seat.

After the foundation of the independent Czechoslovak Republic in 1918, Prague Castle again became the seat of the head of state. It is an important cultural and historical monument. The crown jewels, precious Christian relics, art treasures and historical documents are kept here.

Events important for the whole country have taken place within its walls. Hence Prague Castle is the embodiment of the historical tradition of the Czech state, linking the present with the past.

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Lunch is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Prague.

After lunch, you will continue on your tour with a visit to Old Town Prague.

Then, you will continue with the downtown area which is best seen on foot. You will walk the cobblestone streets of the Old Town and see where the former border between the Old Town and the New Town was located.

While standing on the Old Town Square famous for its Astronomical Clock, you can admire the 12 apostles every hour on the hour and the whole mechanism can be explained to you in detail.

The oldest house in the city is also located here - it dates back to the 14th century. You will see the statue of Jan Hus in the middle of the square, the Kinsky Palace which houses a gallery now and every single house on the square has a story worth telling. The twin towers of the Tyn Church are not part of the square but they are best seen from them and you will be amazed that such a mighty church can have such a small entrance.



You may choose to relax over a cup of coffee or a glass of beer at the old market place Ungelt before you continue towards the Powder Tower where the city ended seven centuries ago. Another "must see" is the Municipal House built in art nouveau style.

You can either enjoy a concert in its elegant Smetana Hall or just have refreshments at one of its three restaurants.

You will continue to the bottom of encelas square that witnessed the Velvet Revolution in November 1989 - the overthrow of

communism. You will also pass the colorful fruit and vegetable market, then walk back to the Old Town Square and along the pedestrian Charles street to another "must" in Prague - Charles Bridge. Not only is it the best place for taking pictures, but each of its 30 statues has its own

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story. By the time you finish listening to the stories, you are ready for a well-deserved rest at one of the many cafes along the Vltava River.

Strahov Monastery (this can be added to the Castle tour upon request)



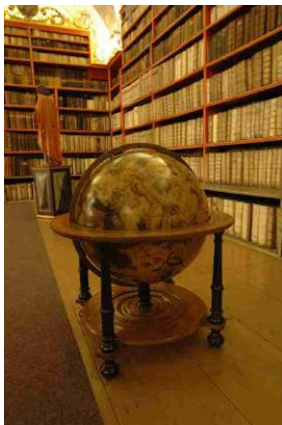
It was founded in 1140 on Strahov Hill and it is considered as one of the oldest monasteries.

You enter the complex through the baroque gate with a statue of St. Norbert, the founder of the St. Norbert's Order.

When you decide on a private tour of the monastery,

you will use the back door and can explore the two very unique and beautiful library rooms. Your guide can tell you many stories and show you the

illustrations in some of the books. When you go with other “normal” tourists, you just peek into the rooms from the doorway.



This Prague interior is really worth visiting and highly recommended, especially after its complete cleaning and renovation which was finished at the end of the last year.

The two amazing rooms are: the Theological Hall dating back to 17th century. It is decorated with a stucco ceiling with frescos dedicated to science, education and different proverbs. We admire the rich collection of more than 15.000 books, astronomical and geographical globes, precious old songbooks and unique pieces of furniture.

The 18th century Philosophical Hall occupies two floors and it is really a temple of sciences.

The book cabinets - home to 50 000 books - were originally designed for a different monastery and since they represent great example of baroque woodcarving, they found their home here and the hall was built according to their size. The magnificent fresco called “Intellectual Progress of Mankind” is the icing on the cake of this private tour.

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You will also see the Cabinet of Curiosities and the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary where Mozart used to play the organ during his Prague visits. Stunning view of Prague panorama can be admired from the backyard of the Monastery.

Estates Theatre

It is a building representing classical music in Prague. Its history is inseparably connected with W.A. Mozart. That is the place where he presented his operas to Prague, his masterpieces “Figaro’s Wedding” and „Don Giovanni“. One of the few buildings built in classical architecture style, still preserved in its almost original stage.



Detail: The building was built at the end of 18th century by count Frantisek Nostic-Rieneck. It was designed by the architect Antonin Haffenecker in classical style. At first sight it reminds little bit of a Roman or Greek temple. Definitely it is a temple of classical music and theatre, as it says the Latin inscription “Patriae et Musis” on the main façade.



The founder of the theatre was a great patriot and art lover; he wanted to dedicate the theater to German drama and opera. Several important music composer and musicians presented their work within the walls of this theatre. The most important one is of course W.A. Mozart. Firstly his opera “Figaro’s Wedding” in January 1786 was presented. It was a great success. During his stay in Prague W.A. Mozart conducted the opera on 22nd January, 1786 and also presented his Prague Symphony on a public concert.



The great success of his work brought him the contract for “Don Giovanni” performed on 29th October, 1787. The world premiere of the opera took place in the Estates Theatre and W.A. Mozart again conducted the orchestra himself.

Visitors can admire the richly decorated interiors originally designed by Jan Jacob Quirin Jahn in the late rococo style. Even the theatre was several times remodelled and modernized for today purposes in its walls still lives the atmosphere from Mozart’s times.

Dinner is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes’ Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Prague.

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Day 2: Prague

Breakfast in your hotel

After breakfast, approximately 9:30 am – meet your private English-speaking driver & Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for a trip outside Prague – you have a few options outlined below.

Konopiste OR Karlstejn castle

OR

A combination of Karlstejn AND Krivoklat castles - it will be a full day



Cesky Krumlov and Other Wonders of Southern Bohemia (a full day trip)

The almost fairy tale region of Southern Bohemia is situated about a 2-hour-drive from Prague. Going through countryside we can admire small villages and towns, fishponds and deep forests.

Our first stop in Southern Bohemia will be Hluboka Chateau. It was once built as a gothic fortress on a high rock to guard the valley of the Vltava River and later on it was rebuilt several times. The noble Schwarzenberg family rebuilt it at the end of 19th century in Gothic Revival–Tudor style, being inspired by Windsor castle in England. The interiors of Hluboka will offer us rich woodcarvings, designed by local craftsmen, collections of Flemish tapestries of great value, fine collections of porcelain, ceramics, glass, historical furniture and paintings.

Then, we will make a short stop in the town of Ceske Budejovice, home of the original Budweiser Beer. We will admire one of the nicest squares in the Czech Republic adorned by baroque Town Hall, renaissance houses and the Black Tower.

Finally we will continue to Cesky Krumlov. It is a unique town almost entirely preserved from renaissance period. Upon arrival, our tour starts in the narrow historical streets adorned by many renaissance houses, the Old Town Hall situated on Market Square, a magnificent gothic church

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of St. Vitus where we can see the tombs of the last members of the Lords of Roses' family, other baroque churches and picturesque squares. We can visit the interiors of the Cesky Krumlov Castle which is situated on a high rock guarding the Vltava River and which was used for centuries as a residence of the Lords of Roses, the Eggenbergs and the Schwarzenbergs. Today it houses rich collections of furniture, pictures, china and historical artefacts.

A small UNESCO heritage village Holasovice can be our next stop. We can admire rural-baroque architecture from 18th and 19th century there.

Our last stop in Southern Bohemia might be the historical town of Trebon. Once it was a residence of the last member of the Lords of Roses family - Peter Vok. This quaint town can offer us a charming square with a plague column, Town Hall and renaissance houses and, of course, the Lords of Roses' Chateau. Behind the chateau gardens, we can admire the largest fishpond in the Czech Republic called Svet (the World).



Karlovy Vary

The wonderful spa town of Karlovy Vary is situated in Western Bohemia in a romantic valley of the Tepla River. It is famous worldwide for its spa facilities and 12 hot mineral springs.

According to a legend its mineral streams were discovered by chance, during a hunting trip by Charles IV in 14th century. Charles IV really loved this town and it is only correct that it bears his name - Karlovy Vary (Charles' hot waters).



The town of Karlovy Vary was rebuilt many times over the course of centuries. We can still admire houses designed in 19th and early 20th centuries.

Fellner and Hellmer, the two Viennese architects designed the finest architecture pieces.

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Karlovy Vary has played host to an endless list of celebrities including Goethe, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, List, Tchaikovsky etc. Everybody who was “somebody” had to visit Karlovy Vary. After a period of decline during communist times, the town has been restored back to its beauty and it is once again welcoming the visitors from all over the world.

Addition to Karlovy Vary visit - Becov nad Teplou



The castle was built in the 14th century to guard an important crossing of the commercial roads. It served as an ideal fortress as it is situated on the cliff, surrounded from two sides by the Tepla River and from the third side by the Dolský creek.

The original owners Pluhové of Rabštejn lost the castle in the protestant rebellion against Ferdinand I and it had kept changing owners and had been rebuilt several times.

Today it is known not only for its architectural beauty, but also for an exhibition of the St. Moor

reliquary - the most precious artifact after the Czech Coronation Jewels. How it got to Becov nad Teplou and how it was rediscovered is a detective story.



The most precious artifact is the unique reliquary of St. Moor, which was found in the chapel in 1985. Alfred de Beaufort bought a rare 12th century reliquary of St. Moor, had it restored and brought it to Becov.

At the end of World War II the Beauforts, active collaborators with the Nazi regime, left the chateau in a hurry.

The reliquary was hidden under the floor of the castle chapel for 40 years. In the 1980s, police got a tip that a foreign businessman was offering mediating services in the export of the forgotten reliquary.

After a long investigation into the archives and interrogations of witnesses, a list of possible sites where the reliquary could be hidden was made. On November 5, 1985, the reliquary was discovered, surrounded by the bottles of wine and cognac. Sixty Czech and international

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specialists participated in its restoration. Since May 2002, the reliquary is displayed in a special safety deposit room in the chateau Becov.



The reliquary reminds us of a tiny model of a long “house”. It was made of wood in the first half of 13 century for keeping the “holy relicts” of St. Moor, St. Timotei and St John the Baptist.

It is richly decorated with gold, golden statutes representing Jesus, St. Moor and twelve apostles, precious and semiprecious stones, natural crystal and antique gems. The upper part of the reliquary is adorned with round shaped beautifully designed scenes from the lives of saints.



Karlstejn Castle (approx. 5 hours)

This tour takes us to one of the most popular castles in the Czech Republic. But be warned that it is only for the fit people who love walking. It is at least a 20-minute-walk up the hill from the parking place and there are lots of steps inside the castle too!



The castle was built in the 14th century during the reign of Charles IV. Charles IV had this castle built as a treasury for the holy relics, Imperial Coronation Jewels and later on also Czech Coronation Jewels. Unlike many other castles which were built mostly for strategic and military reasons, Karlstejn was built as a private residence of Charles IV - a place for his contemplation and meditation. Its main tower, especially the Chapel of the Holy Rood was a real wonder in its times. Richly decorated with semi-precious stones, gold plating and marvellous pictures representing „the holy army of saints”, it is the greatest example of Gothic art and architecture.

The castle represents Gothic fortification architecture inspired by German and French medieval castles. Divided into three parts, it forms an almost impregnable fortress. The interiors of the castle commemorate the period of Charles IV but the exterior is more impressive than the interior

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with the exception of the Chapel of the Holy Rood which is a separate tour that has to be booked well in advance.



There are two guided tours that can be visited at Karlstejn Castle. The first tour takes us through the historical interiors of the Imperial Palace, visiting the Vassal's Hall, the bedroom of Charles IV, the audience hall, the hall of ancestors connected with banquet hall and finally the Marian Tower with the treasury.

You can admire the copy of the Czech Royal Crown dedicated to St. Wenceslas in the treasury. This tour gives you an overview of the history of the castle and tells you about its importance.

The second tour is more aimed at the private life of Charles IV. It starts in the Church of our Lady, adorned by beautiful Gothic frescoes, continues to its sacristy and Chapel of St. Catherine. The most fascinating frescoes of the Church of Our Lady depict the Apocalypse - the prophecy of St. John, the final battle between good and evil.

We continue climbing many steps to the Great Tower with the Chapel of the Holy Rood - the world largest of its kind. The Chapel is really breathtaking. During the times of Charles IV there was nothing in western Christianity to rival its beauty. Gothic ceiling and walls of the Chapel are covered by semi-precious stones and gilded stucco creating the illusion of the sky.

Entirely unique is the original decoration of wall paintings dating back to the 14th century. It is the collection of 129 panel paintings by Master Theodorik, the largest portrait gallery of Czech rulers in the country. This tour must be booked well in advance.

Konopiste Chateau (approx. 5 hours)



It is a castle from your romantic dreams. It was built originally as a medieval fortress guarding one of the main business roads.

It was completely rebuilt by Archduke Franz Ferdinand d'Este as his family residence in 19th century. It has one of the richest interiors with a vast number of the historical collections of any kind. It is situated 40 kilometers from Prague and it is one of the most visited castles in the country.

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If you are interested in history and want to know something about the Habsburg period of the Czech Kingdom, you should visit Konopiste Castle. Its history starts in 18th century when bishop Tobias of Bechyně ordered to build it as a fortress.

During centuries it was rebuilt many times. Archduke Franz Ferdinand d'Este, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, bought this castle in 1887 and had it remodelled into his private residence.

He decided to buy the castle far away from the Viennese Imperial court because of the court's harsh disapproval with his Czech wife countess Sophia Chotek. She was not considered "noble enough" for Franz Ferdinand, since he was the heir to the Austrian throne and she was "only" a countess.



We will visit richly decorated interiors admiring antique furniture, pictures, statues, tapestries, and porcelain collections, one of the most valuable weapon collections in the world and, of course, hunting trophies. Ferdinand was a passionate hunter; he killed more than 300 000 animals during his life. Just a very small portion of them is displayed as hunting trophies here.

One of the castle tours is dedicated to Franz Ferdinand and his family only. You can almost feel that the family has just left for a walk. We will visit Ferdinand's private rooms, rooms of his wife Sophia Chotek and their children.

You might have seen this castle in the movie *The Illusionist* with Edward Norton and Jessica Biel.

Kutna Hora and Sedlec (approx. 5 hours)



This tour will last about six hours and you we will see the following places:

The old silver mining town called Kutna Hora. It originated as a small mining community in the second half of 13th century.

When rich deposits of silver were discovered, king Vaclav II took over and Kutna Hora became the second most important town after Prague in the

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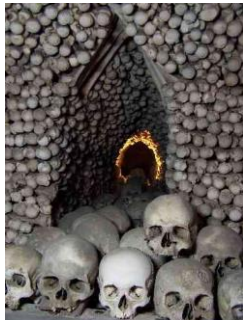
Czech Kingdom. The name Kutna Hora comes from a German expression “khutten bergh” which means “mining mountain”.

For centuries the power and wealth of Czech kings was based on Kutna Hora and its silver. Florentine bank experts, invited by Vaclav II., carried out a coin reform. Silver coins under the name “Prague Groschen” began to be minted here. They were so successful, that they were circulated all over Europe. The wealth generated by the town's silver ore also resulted in many construction activities which can be admired till today.



Miners were rich enough to build their own cathedral dedicated to St. Barbara - their patron saint.

This cathedral is listed by the UNESCO as of special cultural significance. In the late 14th century a superb palace, Italian Court, was constructed with reception halls, private residential rooms of the king, mint workshops and the Chapel of St. Wenceslas. Walking through the town, your guide will explain and show you many other sights.



In the district of Sedlec located on the outskirts of Kutna Hora, we can find another cathedral built by the Cistercian order.

Next to the cathedral, there is a Chapel of All Saints with more than 40.000 human bones assembled in huge bells, macabre chandeliers, ostensories and coats of arms. It sounds very strange but it is really very interesting and worth seeing.

The UNESCO towns of Telc and Trebic



The small town of Trebic has got two jewels listed by UNESCO. It is the former Benedictine Abbey founded in 1001.

Its granite Basilica in transitional Romanesque style is one of the most important buildings in the country.

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tombstones.

The second complex of a greater interest is the former Jewish ghetto. In 1433 the first Jews were mentioned here.

Quite a large settlement of 1.490 people in 1835 lived between the river Jihlava and the hill „Hradek“. The whole Jewish area comprising of 123 houses has been preserved till today.

You will see the ghetto with everything that was necessary for its running - Rabbinate, School, two Synagogues and the cemetery with 2.600

The second town which is only 36 km away from Trebic is the town of Telc. The 16th century governor of Moravia Zacharias of Hradec turned Telc into his principal seat.



The Renaissance beauty of the town testifies to its heyday under Zacharias' rule.

There is no modern building spoiling the historical centre of the town. It looks like the backcloths of a stage setting for some Renaissance feast.

The Telc castle is one of the nicest surprises in the country, it is simple yet very nice and it has fascinating interior with magnificent coffered ceilings.

Terezin (approx. 5 hours)



Terezin is also known as "Theresienstadt". It is a defensive complex founded in 1780 by Joseph II, the son of the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa and named after her. It is the terrible history of the town - first under the Habsburgs and then under the Nazis - which made this place so notorious. It was described by its survivors as the waiting room to hell - full of music and art, full of hope and yet...

All our guides are extremely well-trained in the comprehensive history of the tragic events.

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Upon our arrival we will pass the National Cemetery located in front of the Small Fortress. This part used to be one of the most important military and political prisons in the Habsburg Empire.

Many rebels and leaders of the nationalist-liberation struggles were jailed here. The well-known are the assassins of Franz Fredinand d`Este in 1914 in Sarajevo.

The Gestapo used this place since June 1940 and 32 thousand inmates saw the chilling and ironic words „ARBEIT MACHT FREI“ and these are still written above the entrance.



A ghetto, the holding camp for Jews, was founded in the Big Fortress in November 1941. Only for the propaganda reasons, the Nazis permitted a relatively flourishing cultural life in the ghetto.

Firstly, we go to see the Museum, where paintings drawn by the children are displayed. Over four thousand of them have been preserved! Afterwards, we will watch the very interesting “propaganda” movie filmed in Terezin to the order of the NAZI leader

Goebles in 1941.

The picture presented by Nazis is in a sharp contrast to the reality of the camp where each fifth inmate died and from which about 87 thousand prisoners were deported to Auschwitz, Treblinka and Majdanek concentration camps.



The other part of the exhibition shows how the permanently crowded camp functioned. You will learn about the work of medical staff, teachers and administration clerks.

Next, we will drive through the town, passing among barracks close to the railroad tracks. In the end of our tour, we will see the Jewish cemetery and Crematorium.

Dinner is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Prague.

Day 3: Prague

Berakfast in your hotel

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After breakfast, approximately 9:30 am – meet your private English-speaking driver & Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for a scenic drive to Passau with a stop in the UNESCO town of Cesky Krumlov; finish at a ship in Passau TBA). This is a full day tour. You will have selected some of the sites you want to see today in your Creative Planning Session with our Celebration Escapes' Travel Consultants & Milestone Celebration Experts.

When travelling to Passau, our clients love to stop in the UNESCO town of Cesky Krumlov which is on the way. Český Krumlov is a city in the South Bohemia region of the Czech Republic. It's bisected by the Vltava River, and dominated by its 13th-century castle. The castle has Gothic, Renaissance and baroque elements, an 11-hectare garden and an original 17th-century baroque theater. There are panoramic views of the old town and the river from the top of its round belltower.

The beautiful walled city of Český Krumlov is the second most popular tourist attraction in the Czech Republic after [Prague](#). The center of the city has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and well deserves the designation: a visit is like stepping back in time to the 14th century as you stroll this perfectly preserved labyrinth of laneways with its many Renaissance homes and buildings.

Highlights include a number of well-preserved religious sites, including the Minorite Monastery and the exquisite Church of St. Vitus, along with a number of interesting art galleries and museums. In addition to its quieter pursuits, the city also boasts an abundance of fine restaurants, while the adventurous can hike nearby Mount Klet' or take a kayak or boat ride along the River Vltava.

Český Krumlov:

Explore Český Krumlov Castle

The second largest castle complex in the country (second to [Prague Castle](#)) dates back to 1240. Because the castle kept expanding over the centuries, today it is a fascinating mix of many architectural styles, and includes a large Rococco garden, an 18th-century coach house and an impressive labyrinth of cellars. Visitors can also see the castle fountain, which was originally built in the mid-18th century and rebuilt and modernized a century later.

The massive Český Krumlov Castle dominates the old town and offers a fascinating look into the lives of the aristocratic rulers of Bohemia through the centuries. Although tracing its roots back to 1240, much of what's seen today was built in the 17th century, including the fine Rosenberg Ballroom, the splendid Chapel of St. George, the Renaissance Hall, and the Royal Apartments.

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Another feature of note is the castle's wonderful Baroque theater, built in 1682 and with still-operating stage equipment and props dating from the 18th century. A highlight of a visit to this UNESCO World Heritage Site is the chance to view a variety of important collections of paintings, tapestries, and exquisite period furnishings.

All told, the site consists of 40 buildings and palaces, five castle courts, and a park, so be prepared for a little walking.

Walk the Old Town Center

Český Krumlov's historic center has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walk down the cobblestone streets and along the Vltava River to discover the mix of Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance style buildings.

A highlight of a visit to Český Krumlov is simply walking its many old streets and soaking up the splendid artwork that is everywhere around you; the city is famous for its many frescoes, a tradition that dates back centuries. It's also home to the Egon Schiele Art Centrum, a large gallery featuring classical and contemporary 20th-century artwork. Established in 1993, this superb privately owned gallery features an ever-changing roster of works by such renowned artists as Gustav Klimt, Salvador Dalí, and Pablo Picasso.

Another highlight is the permanent exhibition of works by Viennese painter Egon Schiele, as well as an interesting overview of the artist's life and his time in Český Krumlov. Other highlights include regular lectures, workshops, and concerts.

Learn the ins and outs of beer making

Beer brewing has been a big part of Český Krumlov since the 1300s. Once the exclusive drink of royalty and nobility, the Eggenberg brewery has been operating since 1630. A guided tour will show what goes on during the beer brewing process (how things are made, processed and bottled) and will then allow you to taste some original fresh Eggenberg beer.

Stop by the fountain on the Main Square

The fountain was built in 1843 to replace an older version that dated back to the 16th century. Once a main source of drinkable water for the town, the fountain is now a favorite picture spot. Go up the steps, find St. Vitus at the top of the column and then snap a photo with the Baroque buildings serving as background.

See a mini version of Český Krumlov at the Regional Museum

The Regional Museum in Český Krumlov is home to over 22000 items – including Bohemian antiques and archaeological finds – as well as 5000 historical books. The museum's main attraction, however, is the 1:200 scale ceramic model of the town.

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Complete with over 800 structures, it includes plenty of details of historic Český Krumlov that are no longer around.

Another must-visit when in Český Krumlov is the Regional Museum (Regionální muzeum v Českém Krumlově) with its excellent exhibits relating to the history of both the city and the region of Bohemia. Highlights include numerous archaeological exhibits and artifacts, fine arts and folk arts, weaponry, furnishings, and a number of ethnographic displays.

Two particular highlights are a fine collection of Gothic sculptures and a huge ceramic model of Český Krumlov built in stunning detail in 1:200 scale. Also worth a visit is the nearby Museum of Architecture and Craft, which traces the history of the city's design as well as local trades and crafts.

The Minorite Monastery

Construction of the Minorite Monastery, one of Český Krumlov's oldest surviving buildings, started in the mid 14th century and continued off and on until the end of the Baroque era. Still in use, the monastery is best visited during one of its memorable religious concerts or recitals. One of the most interesting aspects of this vast property - it also includes the Beguine Convent - is a unique set of trusses of Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque origin. Other highlights include the intricately carved entranceway, along with fine statues of saints, a high early Baroque altar and a number of old organs.

The Marionette Museum

A short walk from the old town center, the Marionette Museum makes for an interesting diversion, especially for those traveling with children. Housed in the former Church of St. Jost (the interior of which is also of interest), this fun attraction features numerous fascinating displays which provide insight into the evolution of this centuries-old form of entertainment. Exhibits include stages and puppets from the 19th century, complete marionette theaters, as well as modern collections from the National Marionette Museum in Prague. A highlight of any visit is the chance to catch a performance of a classic opera such as Don Giovanni or The Magic Flute.

Step inside the Church of St. Vitus

One of the oldest Gothic churches in the country preserved in its original state, St. Vitus dates back to the 15th century. The church stands right next to the [castle](#) on top of a promontory, watching over the town. Inside, the church features frescoes, a 17th century altar with original paintings and the gravestones of Wilhelm von Rosenberg (a local aristocrat and diplomat) and his third wife Anna Maria.

The other structure to dominate the Český Krumlov cityscape - the largest being the old castle - is the Roman Catholic Church of St. Vitus, which can trace its origins back to the 13th century with the building of the first place of worship on the site. Adding to the church's distinctive profile is its tremendously tall roof, which is equally as spectacular when viewed from the building's sumptuously decorated nave.

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The church is also notable as the burial place of a number of important Bohemian families, including the Rosenbergs and the Schwarzenbergs, the tombs of which contain the remains of many generations of each family. Add to this mix an impressive 19th-century spire and a stunning façade, and there's little wonder the church is so often photographed. Try to time your visit to coincide with one of the church's classical concerts, an unforgettable experience.

Ooh and aah at the Moldavite Museum

Fifteen million years ago, a massive meteorite hit the Earth in what is today's modern Germany. The impact was so powerful that pieces of the moldavite stone shattered and scattered, flying all the way into the area where Český Krumlov now stands. The museum, which contains significantly large pieces of moldavite, also features interesting short films, futuristic interactive exhibits, and audiovisual areas.

Explore an underground mine

Český Krumlov is home to a graphite mine and a rich history of mining everything from graphite to precious metals and minerals. Book a guided tour, gear up with some protective equipment and then head underground to understand what 18th century mining was like and how the "graphite rush" of 1846 shaped the town.

Next, we will continue on to Passau. Passau, a German city on the Austrian border, lies at the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz rivers. Known as the Three Rivers City, it's overlooked by the Veste Oberhaus, a 13th-century hilltop fortress housing a city museum and observation tower. The old town below is known for its baroque architecture, including St. Stephen's Cathedral, featuring distinctive onion-domed towers and an organ with 17,974 pipes.

Passau Sites:

St. Stephen's Cathedral

St. Stephen's Cathedral is found in the Old Town or Altstadt of Passau. Established in 1668, its construction was finished by 1693. The church however was the site of other churches which were either destroyed by war or natural disasters. Remnants of the old gothic church can be seen on the eastern side. The church is built in the baroque style, designed by Carlo Lurago, interior decoration by Giovanni Battista Carlone, and its impressive frescos by Carpofo Tencalla.

Aside from being an architectural gem, the church also prides itself for having the largest pipe organ that can be found outside of the United States. Being the largest cathedral organ in the world, it has 17,774 pipes and 233 registers, producing a magnificent sound when played.

St. Paul's Church, the oldest parish church in Passau

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The grand St. Stephen's Cathedral is not the oldest church in town. This title goes to the nearby St. Paul's Church which is also located within the Old Town area. According to records, it was established in 1050 with St. Paul as its patron saint. When the old church structure was destroyed by fire in 1662, a new structure was built starting in 1678. Built in the baroque style, its altar is of black and gold which contrasts very well with the church's light colored walls.

Fortress on a mountain: Veste Oberhaus

The Veste Oberhaus is a fortress on top of a mountain that was built during medieval times, in 1219. Its main purpose was to show the military strength of the Holy Roman Empire as embodied by the prince-bishop of Passau. Its location is strategic because it gives a good vantage point of the city, and the three rivers where possible enemies may enter.

The fortress and its structures reflect the different architectural influences throughout time, with gothic, renaissance and baroque parts. Today, it houses a museum which showcases the history and art of Passau. You can also explore the complex and its other structures. There is a shuttle bus from the Old Town to the complex

Admire Wagner's art at Alte Rathaus

The old town hall, otherwise called Alte Rathaus, is located right on the banks of the Danube River. Aside from its beautiful Neo-gothic tower, another interesting feature of the town hall are the water marks or measures near the entrance of the hall. These marks show how high the water levels were during floods. The town hall dates back to the 14th-century.

Once inside the building's Great Assembly Room, guests can marvel and admire the beautiful stained windows that show different historical events, as well as the huge paintings of German artist Ferdinand Wagner.

Glass art through the ages at Passau Glass Museum

Containing the world's largest collection of European glass, the Passau Glass Museum showcases the evolution of the art of glassmaking throughout the years. With over 30,000 exhibits, guests can appreciate the different designs and techniques of the different periods, from baroque, Rococo, Empire, Biedermeier, historicism, art nouveau and art deco, up until the modern styles and designs.

Opened in 1985, the Passau Glass Museum is housed in the building of Hotel Wilder-Mann. It is located in the area considered to be part of the Old Town of Passau. Admission fee to the museum is about 8 USD per person.

Have your art fix at the Artists Alley, Hollgasse

On the street Hollgasse in Passau, guests will find what is called Artists Alley. As you walk along the cobble stoned street, you will see small shops and art galleries displaying the work of local artists. You won't miss this street because some of the cobble stones have been painted on with a rainbow of colors. If the weather is fine, usually during summer, artists would hang their paintings and other art works outdoors for tourists and potential buyers to see. Even if you

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are not looking to buy, this street is still worth the visit if only for the great looking photos you can take.

You can find this street on your own by walking around the Old Town, near the promenade of the River Danube. Or you can join one of the many walking tours that the local tourism office organizes.

Roman Passau at RomerMuseum Kastell Boiotro

Catch a glimpse of the town when it was under the rule of the Romans at the RomerMuseum Kastell Biotro, also known as the Roman Museum. The site was opened to the public only in 1982, after it was discovered when construction was started in the area in 1974. According to archaeologists and scholars, the fort dates back from 250 to 450 AD, when Passau was part of the Roman empire.

The artifacts found on the site are currently being displayed in the museum. Nearby the museum, a playground for kids that features castles can be found.

Appreciate modern art at the Museum of Modern Art

The Museum of Modern Art in Passau can be found in one of the many attractive buildings along the banks of the Danube River. The gothic style of the building belies what is within its walls - a collection of modern art by German artists and international artists as well. The museum was established by the son of artist Georg Philipp Wörlen, thus the bulk of the permanent exhibitions at the museum feature Worlen's cubist and expression art work. From time to time, the museum also has temporary exhibits by local and international artists and architects.

In Passau, for those continuing on with a river cruise or with their custom tour forward, you will have checked out of your hotel in Prague and you will be delivered to your hotel in Passau, for your overnight stay.

In the morning, you will meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of the hotel for your transfer to the port for your cruise.

If you are returning to Prague, you have an option of having dinner in Passau or returning to Prague and having dinner in Prague.

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