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## PRAGUE, DRESDEN, AND THE CASTLES OF BOHEMIA: A SPECTACULAR CRUISE ON THE ELBE AND VLTAVA RIVERS

**Trip Code:** PGP\_PP

**Duration:** 7

**Destination:**

**Travel Dates:** 2022/2023

### DAY 1 PRAGUE

Passengers are welcome to board at 6:00 p.m. in Prague. In the evening, we'll introduce our crew at a welcome cocktail. We'll enjoy dinner on board.

### DAY 2 PRAGUE - STECHOVICE

We'll spend the morning cruising the **Vltava to Stechovice**. Nestled in peaceful surroundings, the Vltava River reveals its bucolic landscapes and natural beauty. Once known for its gold mines, Stechovice is now famous for its traditional handmade pottery. In the afternoon, join us for an excursion to **Konopiste Castle**. Located in an idyllic setting, this 13th-century fortress—entirely renovated in the 18th century—was the Habsburg's hunting lodge. In addition to its sumptuously decorated apartments, the castle is home to an impressive collection of medieval weapons and armor that once belonged to Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. The castle was his last abode prior to his assassination in Sarajevo in 1914. Enjoy an evening of entertainment on board.

### DAY 3 STECHOVICE - SLAPY

We'll cruise on the beautiful **Vltava River** to the Slapy dam. We'll follow the winding river lined with hillsides on each bank and catch glimpses of castles in romantic, restful landscapes so typical of central Bohemia. The **Slapy Reservoir** is a popular vacation spot for residents of **Prague**, offering water sports and numerous recreational activities. We'll return to Prague at the end of the afternoon. Enjoy an evening of traditional entertainment on board.

### DAY 4 PRAGUE

Join us this morning for a guided tour of the **Old Town in Prague**. Stare Mesto dates back more than 1,000 years and is one of the most important places in Bohemian history. As you stroll through the city's narrow streets, you'll discover many points of interest, including the Jewish quarter, the old town hall and its famous astronomical clock, the Gothic church of Our Lady before Tyn, and the Charles Bridge. We'll enjoy lunch on board. In the afternoon, join us for a guided tour of the **Prague Castle district**: Palaces, churches, and convents stand harmoniously in the vicinity of the castle, sitting high on a hill watching over the city. We'll discover **St. Vitus Cathedral**, the largest and most important church in the country and one of the most prestigious Gothic cathedrals in Europe; the Old Royal Palace; and the Golden Lane, named after the goldsmiths that

thrived there during the 17th century. The rest of the evening is yours to do as you please.

## DAY 5 MELNIK

We'll spend the morning cruising to **Melnik**, at the confluence of the Elbe. We'll enjoy lunch on board. This afternoon, join us for a tour of **Nelahozeves Castle** and the birth house of Antonin Dvorak. We'll visit one of the most beautiful Renaissance castles in Bohemia that was home to 23 different Bohemian queens and princesses. The castle walls are elaborately adorned with Italian-style stucco and wall paintings depicting scenes from the Old Testament and Greek mythology. It is also home to a rich, private collection of furniture and paintings—including works by Rubens, Velazquez, and many others—all belonging to the Lobkowitz family, the oldest and most eminent Bohemian noble family. We'll discover the luxurious lifestyle of the Bohemian nobility during the Baroque period. At the end of our tour, you'll enjoy tasting a selection of wines from the castle's vineyard. Nelahozeves is the birthplace of Antonin Dvorak. During our visit to the house in which he was born, we'll discover the life and works of one of the greatest composers of the 19th century, the man who composed the famous "New World Symphony."

The rest of the evening is yours to do as you please.

## DAY 6 MELNIK - DRESDEN - LITOMERICE

Join us for a full-day excursion to **Dresden**, a fantastic city known as the "**Florence of the Elbe**." A relatively recent city with Slavic origin, **Dresden** became the capital of the Margravate of Meissen in the 13th century and the seat of the Dukes of Saxony in the 15th century. **Dresden** offers a wide variety of attractions, including magnificent promenades on the bank of the Elbe, fascinating museums, monuments, and charming details. We'll have lunch in a local restaurant. In the afternoon, join us for a guided tour of the Royal Palace, the former residence of the Saxon Dukes and Electors and the Kings of Saxony. Today, we can revel in the splendor of its architecture and its collections, including the historic Green Vault, which contains the largest collection of treasures in Europe. After our excursion, we'll return on board the ship

## DAY 7 ROUDNICE - SAXON SWITZERLAND : THE ELBE SANDSTONE MOUNTAINS

Our ship will leave early in the morning. Once we arrive, we'll leave on an excursion to the **Elbe Sandstone Mountains**. We'll discover **Königstein Fortress**, perched on top of a plateau overlooking the river below. We'll then stop at the Bastei rock formation towering above the Elbe and formed by water erosion over one million years ago. After our excursion, we'll return on board the ship. Tonight is our festive gala evening

## DAY 8 PRAGUE

Our ship will leave early in the morning. Enjoy breakfast on board this morning before disembarking at 10:00 a.m.

## DAY

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