

CZECH HERITAGE TOURS

September 24 - October 6, 2018

Monday, September 24

Depart Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport to Paris.

Tuesday, September 25

Arrival in Paris, the luxury bus with attendant team and tour guide will be waiting for you at the airport. Continue to the west coast of Normandy, to the attractive city of Caen with its light cream-colored "Caen stone" houses, sailboats in the heart of the city and its Romanesque abbeys. This area is also known for the World War II landing of American armies. Check-in. Leisure time for you to do whatever you desire!

Wednesday, September 26

Today we will tour the beaches of Normandy, where British, Canadian and American armies landed during World War II. The tour will encompass the cemetery of American soldiers. France has granted the United States a special, perpetual concession to the land occupied by the cemetery, free of any charge or tax. This cemetery is managed by the American government, under Congressional acts that provide yearly financial support for maintaining them. We will then visit the museum and panoramic cinema in Aromanche-les-Bains, situated approximately 25 km (16 miles) northwest of Caen. Aromanche lies along the stretch of coastline designated as Gold Beach during the D-Day landings, one of the beaches used by British troops in the Allied invasion. After our D-Day excursion, we will return to Caen for the night. You will have leisure time for shopping downtown.

Thursday, September 27

Leave for Paris, the capital of France. Today will be spend all afternoon in Paris. We will see the Eiffel Tower, Paris Opera House, the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Champs-Élysées, Arc de Triomphe, the Seine River and the La Défense Business District. The Avenue des Champs-Élysées is one of the most famous streets in the world, and with rents as high as €1.1 million (1.5 million USD) annually per 1,100 square feet of space, it remains the second most expensive strip of real estate in Europe. Here you will see the storefronts of many designers, including Louis Vuitton, Gucci, etc.

Enjoy a spectacular view from the 689 ft. high Montparnasse tower. Constructed from 1969 to 1972, it was the tallest skyscraper in France until 2011. One of the fastest elevators will take you up to the top 59th floor within a few seconds to view the sights Paris. Check-in our hotel.

Friday, September 28

We will cruise the river Seine viewing the beautiful sights of Paris including Notre-Dame, the Eiffel tower, the Louvre Museum etc. We will visit the Eiffel Tower named after the engineer Gustave Eiffel whose company designed and built it. Erected in 1889 as the entrance arch to the 1889 World's Fair, it has become both a global cultural icon of France and one of the most recognizable structures in the world. The tower is the tallest structure in Paris and the most-visited paid monument in the world.

In the afternoon your options will include shopping on one of the largest shopping streets of Paris or a visit to the Louvre where you can view the famous Mona Lisa painting by Leonardo da Vinci and many more artworks.

Saturday, September 29

Leave for Germany in the morning. We will stop enroute in Reims, the French region popularized by its champagne vineyards. Reims is a charming city, home to the Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Reims, a beautiful medieval cathedral known for over a thousand years as the cathedral where French kings were crowned. While in Reims, we will visit a champagne cellar to learn how champagne is made and taste several champagne varieties. There will also be a tour of the cathedral. Arrival in Kaiserslautern, check in.

Sunday, September 30

In the morning we will experience the sights and sounds of the Rhine River from Bingen to Sankt Goar on this sightseeing cruise, passing through the beautiful countryside of vineyards, castles and chateaus. Depart to Rothenburg ob der Tauber. This town is perhaps the best-known of all the medieval "sights" on the Romantic Road. It is a prime example of a walled medieval town - one of the only ones left in Germany. Its beautiful buildings, walls and alleys have led to it becoming one of the most popular tourist destinations in Bavaria. The story of Käthe Wohlfahrt and the Christmas villages and Christmas shops is connected in most people's minds to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, the "Christmas town". Check in.

Monday, October 1

Departure to Munich, one of Germany's most attractive cities. We will spend most of the day at **Oktoberfest**, the largest beer festival in the world! You can enjoy local German food, beer and live brass band music. Outdoors you can find many stalls serving food, selling souvenirs, as well as roller coasters and other amusement rides. Lots of German fun and BEER!! Continue on our way to Austria to the lovely city of Salzburg. Check-in.

Tuesday, October 2

Today our first destination is Eagle's Nest situated just a few miles from Salzburg but in Germany. It was given to Adolf Hitler for his 50th birthday. Very few of the original furnishings remain. There is now a restaurant there, but you can still view the original tearoom with a fireplace made of Carrara marble – a gift from Mussolini. The view of the surrounding mountains with Salzburg in the background is unforgettable. The road leading to the Eagle's Nest parking lot was blasted out of solid rock making a road that is unique in the world. We will go by bus especially adjusted to the narrow road.

In the afternoon enjoy the tour of Salzburg, one of the most beautiful cities of Europe, including Mozart's birthplace house, Residenz Square, the Cathedral, Mirabell Garden and the fortress Hohensalzburg overlooking the city.

Wednesday, October 3

Depart to the beautiful city of České Budejovice in the Czech Republic stopping enroute at Cesky Krumlov, a picturesque town on the river Vltava. This beautiful walled city 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 here is like

stepping back in time to the 14th century as you stroll this perfectly preserved labyrinth of lanes with its many Renaissance homes and buildings. Highlights include not only the second largest castle in the country, but also 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.

After lunch in the local brewery, we will come to *České Budějovice* to tour the major sights of this city of Budvar Beer and check in the hotel. We will start the tour at the largest true square in the Czech Republic, *Přemysl Otakar II. Square* with the mix of arcaded buildings grouped around the 16th century Samson's Fountain, 14th century Renaissance Town Hall as well as the dominating feature, the 14th century Black Tower. You can climb its 225 steps for some great views! Later in the afternoon leisure time and an opportunity for great shopping.

Thursday, October 4

This morning we will depart for Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, stopping en route at *Hluboká nad Vltavou* to tour the neo-Gothic Hluboká Castle considered one of country's most splendid castles. Head inside to explore some of the lavish rooms and towers, stroll around the park-like gardens, and learn how the building was redesigned in the 1800s by the Schwarzenberg family to mimic Windsor Castle. Arrive in Prague, check in our hotel.

After checking in our well-located hotel, you will have time to prepare for the evening dinner and cruise along the Vltava River where you will be able to see the beautifully illuminated sights of Prague at night – Prague Castle, *Vyšehrad*-Upper Castle, the Charles Bridge, the National Theatre, and much more!

Friday, October 5

We will be embarking on an unforgettable walking tour of Prague. We will begin our tour in *Hradčany* at the grounds of Prague castle where we will see the changing of the guards, beautiful courtyards and St. Vitus Cathedral. From there, we will meander through the Lesser Quarter and cross the 14th century Charles Bridge, which is one of the most recognizable landmarks in Prague. We will walk on to Old Town Square to see the famous Astronomical clock.

After lunch, we will end the tour at Wenceslas Square, which has historically been the sight of many significant events, including the 1989 Velvet Revolution demonstration. You will have free time for sightseeing and shopping at the numerous stores lining the square. In the evening, we will have free time to get ready for an early flight home the next morning.

Saturday, October 6

Depart to Prague's Vaclav Havel Airport early in the morning for our flight back to the US.

NOTE: Itinerary subject to change depending upon availability

Check your passport when booking your trip to confirm it has not expired. If your passport expires within 6 months of your international travel, you will need to renew it before you leave. Renew early to avoid rush fees.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Tues. & Wed.	9/25 & 26	France	Caen
Thurs. & Fri.	9/27 & 28	France	Paris
Sat.	9/29	Germany	Kaiserslautern
Sun	9/30	Germany	Rothenburg ob der Tauber
Mon. & Tues.	10/1 & 2	Austria	Salzburg
Wednesday	10/3	Czech Republic	Ceske Budejovice
Thurs. & Fri.	10/4 & 5	Czech Republic	Prague

Flight Schedule:

Departure:

September 24, 2018

Lufthansa #439

DFW-Frankfurt

Departs DFW 3:50 p.m. /arrives Frankfurt 8:50 a.m. on September 25

Lufthansa #1034

Frankfurt-Paris

Departs Frankfurt 12:30 p.m./arrives Paris 1:40 p.m.

Return:

October 6, 2018

Lufthansa #1403

Prague-Frankfurt

Departs Prague 6:00 a.m./arrives Frankfurt 7:10 a.m.

Lufthansa #438

Frankfurt-DFW

Departs Frankfurt 10:10 a.m./arrives DFW 2:05 p.m.

For more information, please email: czheritage@hotmail.com or call Renee at 469-867-1785