



NEW

Heart of the Danube Cycling Tour

Plus Vienna & Prague



Includes Tour of Prague

In partnership with *Missouri Life*, Country Travel DISCOVERIES invites active travelers to join that magazine’s publishers, Greg & Danita Wood, on a festive and immersive travel adventure. On this easy-paced, expert-guided bike tour through the heart of scenic Central Europe, you’ll visit medieval, imperial and Cold War landmarks, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and some of the Continent’s most spectacular countryside biking routes. Plus, experience classical Vienna, stunning Prague, Bratislava’s renowned Danubiana Museum, and more!

DAYS 1 & 2—WILKOMMEN IN WIEN

Your European adventure begins immediately upon meeting your English-speaking tour guide at Vienna’s Schwechat airport. Enjoy a nice lunch package aboard your comfortable coach en route to the heart of Vienna, which you’ll experience on a walking tour before checking into your hotel. Tonight, we kick things off with a festive three-course Austrian Welcome Dinner. **D**

DAY 3—SCHÖNBRUNN PALACE/BRATISLAVA

After a good sleep and nice breakfast, today begins with a visit to the famous Schönbrunn Palace, the summer castle of Hapsburgs and one of the most important architectural, cultural, and historical monuments in Austria. Learn about the monarchs who stayed here and enjoy free time exploring the magnificent gardens. After a three-course lunch at a traditional local brewery/restaurant, continue into Slovakia for a walking tour of the capital city, Bratislava. You’ll discover the well-preserved medieval city center and other landmarks before checking into your 4-star hotel. **B, L**

DAY 4—IRON CURTAIN BIKE TOUR

Following a fortifying breakfast, you’ll meet your Slovak bike guide for an exhilarating ride through history. Our 20 km (12.43 mi) route takes us through the historic and intimate aftermath of the Iron Curtain, featuring remnants of the Second World War and the Cold War. Cycling along the lovely Danube, close to the Austrian border, you will see historic bunkers dotting the idyllic countryside. On the Slovak side, we have a chance to explore a bunker and finish with a ride past a new housing estate on the EuroVelo 13 Trail (the trail runs the entire length of the former Iron Curtain). The evening is free to explore. **B, L**

DAY 5—BIRDS OF DANUBE BIKING

Today’s bike tour sets out toward Hrušovská zdrž water reservoir. On the River Danube in southeastern Bratislava, it is among the most important sites in Central Europe for the breeding,



Schönbrunn Palace

Simon Matzinger/Wikimedia - CC BY-SA 3.0

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→ **DANUBE CYCLING TOUR** continued from page 21

migrating and wintering of some birds. This is also a perfect hunting ground for White-tailed Eagle, the region's largest bird of prey. Another highlight is a visit to Danubiana, a stunning museum of modern art located on a peninsula near the Austria/Hungary border. After our stimulating 45 km (28 mi) bike trip, you'll again enjoy free time in the evening to freshen up, relax and dine as you choose. **B, L**

DAY 6—BIKE TOUR TO DEVIN CASTLE/DANUBE RIVER CRUISE

Today's full day of sightseeing starts with a ride to the western part of Bratislava bordering Austria, where we'll encounter the monumental ruins of Devin Castle, immortalized in the work of Jules Verne. The area is known for scenic landscapes, fertile floodplains, wide yellow fields of rapeseed, and the fossil-strewn sand cliffs and caves. You will learn additional stories of those who tried to escape the Iron Curtain here, and can even "flee" to Austria across a cycling bridge to see the baroque Hof Palace, purchased in 1755 by Empress Maria Theresa of Austria. After our easy-going 40 km (24.9 mi) ride, we'll return from Devin Castle aboard a narrated cruise offering splendid views of the countryside as it glides down the Danube. Tonight's three-course dinner is in a favorite local Bratislava restaurant. **B, L, D**

DAY 7—MIKULOV (CZECH REPUBLIC)/LEDNICE

This morning, we bid farewell to Slovakia and depart for the Czech Republic, where we'll settle in in the town of Mikulov. Our knowledgeable Czech bike guide will lead us to Lednice, an amazing UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its magnificent chateau and gardens that are exemplars of design in the enlightenment. A later highlight of our 37 km (23 mi) ride this afternoon is Hranicni zamek, a small chateau set attractively on the west bank of the Hlohovec pond. **B, L**

DAY 8—OTTENTHAL/GALGENBERG/NOVY PREROV

Today's 32 km (19.9 mi) cycling route will take you to the north border of Austria, through the Weinviertel region, famous for its wine making. Cycle over scenic Galgenberg Hill ("Mound of Gallows") back to Novy Prerov—a quaint village that doubles as a mecca for cyclists and wine lovers. En route, you'll see rolling hills and knolls draped with picturesque vineyards, and enjoy a tasty, relaxed picnic lunch in this lovely setting. **B, L**



Mikulov



Lednice Castle & Gardens

DAY 9—DOLNÍ DUNAJOVICE/DOBRÉ POLE/BREŽÍ

This morning, our bike guide takes us toward one of the most important wine areas of Central Europe – Pálava hills, where limestone slopes give the wine a unique character. The terrain makes easy, attractive riding for 37 km (23 mi), with another wonderful picnic lunch on the way. For our last night in the region, we'll have a nice dinner all together in the hotel before heading on to the capital tomorrow. **B, L, D**

DAY 10—PRAGUE

This morning's excitement is palpable as we travel via motorcoach toward Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, nicknamed "the City of a Hundred Spires" and one of the best-preserved cities in Europe. After settling in and enjoying lunch at our 4-star hotel, we'll set out on the first part of our guided walking tours of Prague. You'll be amazed by the city's Old Town Square, the heart of its historic core, with colorful baroque buildings, Gothic churches and the medieval Astronomical Clock, which gives an animated hourly show. The city is home to UNESCO World Heritage Sites and some of the Continent's most stunning architecture, largely undisturbed by war or disaster for a millennium. **B, L**

DAY 11—PRAGUE CASTLE DISTRICT

Today head to Prague's historic Castle area for the second part of your walking tour. You'll see highlights including Prague Castle and Charles Bridge. Started in 1357 under King Charles IV, the historic sandstone bridge vaults the Vltava River, and was for centuries a main connection between the Castle and the Old Town. The afternoon is yours to further explore this incredible city's neighborhoods, then we'll meet up again for a festive farewell dinner cruise on the Vltava River. **B, D**



ABOUT THE BIKING

For your six days of biking, you will have a Trek 7300FX or similar bike, with helmet, fenders, bell, tail light, bottle holder, rear and front bags, cycle computer, bonding, spare inner tube, pump and lock included. Your bike guide will assist in any repairs needed along the way. Rides range from 25-45 km per day (16-28 miles), and are considered "easy" in regard to hills. The majority are on bike paths... at times there will be riding on lightly traveled roads. Travel will be at a comfortable pace. If you are not a biker, it would be a good idea to ride beforehand in accordance with these specifications.



DAY 12—HOME

Today after breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to new friends and our warm Czech hosts as we head home filled with lasting memories of our Central European bike adventure. **B**

Prague

Discoveries Experience

12 Days • 22 Meals

Sep 25-Oct 6

Price Per Person:

Double: \$3,977; Single: \$4,462

Depart/Return: Kansas City, MO or

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Discoveries Inclusions

- Friendly, experienced, English-speaking tour and bike guides
- Roundtrip air from Kansas City to Vienna and back from Prague
- Good quality, modern bikes well-equipped with tools, accessories, and safety equipment
- Transportation by modern motorcoach with reclining seats, A/C and WC
- Danube and Vltava River cruises
- Bag handling (1 per person) at hotels
- Entrance fees for included attractions and gratuities for included meals
- Welcome dinner, 24-hour emergency call service

Quality Accommodations

Night 2: Hotel Regina, Vienna

Nights 3-6: Hotel Devin, Bratislava

Nights 7-9: Hotel Galant, Mikulov

Nights 10-11: Best Western Premier Majestic Plaza, Prague

Pre-/post-tour hotel nights with free parking available. Please call.

CountryTravelDiscoveries.com/MLB



MissouriLife
presents

Bike Adventure through the heart of Europe

September 25 - October 6, 2017

Join Greg and Danita Wood, publisher and editor in chief of *Missouri Life*, on the adventure of a lifetime in 2017!

Bicycle from Vienna to Prague along the Danube River. We'll meander through medieval Europe and quaint villages on easy rides along dedicated paved bike paths between 12 and 29 miles per day on this fun, romantic, super-inclusive trip through Europe's most stunning cities and landscapes!



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Round-trip air from Kansas City or other cities, bikes and gear, fees, English-speaking guides...Included!

Days 1 & 2: Willkommen in Wien

Day 3: Schönbrunn Palace & Bratislava

Day 4: IronCurtain Bike Tour (20 km)

Day 5: Birds of Danube Biking (45 km)

Day 6: Devin Castle & Danube River Cruise (40 km)

Day 7: Mikulov & Lednice (37 km)

Day 8: Ottenthal, Galgenberg & Novy Prerov (32 km)

Day 9: Dolní Dunajovice, Dobré Pole & Brezí (37 km)

Day 10 & 11: Prague

Day 12: Home



missourilife.com/bikeeurope