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# The Best of Eastern Europe

Days:Berlin toBudapest

### What's Included

Your G for Good Moment: Magdas Hotel, Vienna

Your G for Good Moment: Nem Adom Fel Café and Bar, Budapest

Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group

Your Discover Moment: Berlin

Your Discover Moment: Budapest. Orientation tour of Krakow. Auschwitz entrance and guided tour (Krakow). Orientation walk of Prague. Vienna walking tour. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## **Itinerary**

### **Highlights**

Explore historic medieval cities, explore world-class museums, savour the café culture of Europe, opt for a soak in Budapest's famous baths, experience Krakow's eastern charm

### **Dossier Disclaimer**

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## **Itinerary Disclaimer**

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## **Important Notes**

#### 1. CLIMATE

Weather in all countries visited is similar in May – October period. Summer is warm but rainy with 8 – 9 hours of sunshine.

#### 2. YOUR CEO

It is important to note that in Europe, all guiding is based around local guides all of whom are licensed to work only in a particular city. As such, our leaders are able to provide orientation walks which will show you the layout of each town and city as well as the location of local services such as post offices and laundromats, but are unable to legally share historical facts and figures in public places. Your CEO will be able to help you find a local guided tour in each location if you would like one.

#### 3. LUGGAGE

In Europe it is very rare to find elevators in train stations, hotels or other public places. We use public transport on this trip, which means you will need to carry your luggage from platform to platform, in and out of trains and buses etc. and also possibly up several flights of stairs. You will also need to be able to stow your luggage safely on trains and buses. It is therefore essential that you pack light and bring luggage which is compact and lightweight, and which you can easily transport. The carrying of your luggage remains your responsibility at all times.

#### 4. COMBO TRIP

Please note that this tour combines with other Travel There Co tours. As such, the staff and some travel companions on your tour may have previously been traveling together with Travel There Co, prior to Day 1 of your tour. Likewise, some staff and travel companions may be continuing together on another Travel There Co tour, after your trip concludes.

## **Group Leader Description**

This Travel There Co group trip is accompanied by one of our CEOs (Chief Experience Officer). The aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects.

We also use local guides in Auschwitz where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

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# **Group Size Notes**

Max 16, avg 12

### Meals Included

#### Meals

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with Travel There Co you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. The above information applies to Travel There Co group trips. For Independent trips please check the itinerary for details of meals included. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

## **Transport**

Train, long-distance bus, local bus, walking

## **About our Transportation**

Intercity transport on this trip will be by local bus, and long-distance train and bus. The bus and train systems in Central Europe are generally good, but inevitably travelling by public transport can involve delays and frustrations, and we ask you to keep this in mind.

This tour includes some long travel days, but we believe those hours of travel are more than worth it for the reward of seeing so much of this breathtaking region in a short space of time, so unfold your map, pack in your mp3 player and your phrase-book and get ready to enjoy some beautiful landscapes with your Polish or Slovakian neighbour.

Between transport and hotels you may be required to carry your luggage short distances (up to 20 mins walk).

# **Local Flights**

If required all local flights are included in the cost of your tours unless otherwise noted. It is important that we have your passport information at the time of booking in order to process these tickets. Internal flight tickets are issued locally and will be given to you prior to the flight departure.

### **Solo Travellers**

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

### Accommodation

Hotels (13 nts).

### **About Accommodation**

On this trip you can expect to stay in small family-run hotels or pensions (with the exception of the start and finish hotels, which are often larger city hotels), which will vary a little in standard and facilities: some may not have elevators, air-conditioning or English-speaking staff, but most importantly all are locally-run, with some traditional character, and in excellent central locations to give you maximum time for exploring the sights. You can expect to find clean, safe, simple accommodation in convenient locations.

Note that most accommodation in Europe does not have air conditioning units in rooms. Air conditioning is not routinely installed in European homes and workplaces. However, nearly all hotels will provide a standing or

desk fan for your room on hot nights. If you do not already have one in your room, please ask your CEO to organize one for you with reception.

Our accommodation in Krakow is a comfortable and modern hostel with double, twin or triple rooms, bathroom facilities may be shared. Rooms may be triple-share and are not all ensuite. However, the location and the homely welcome are unbeatable!

## **Joining Hotel**

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the Travel There Co App or contact your travel agent.

## **Joining Instructions**

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day. Upon arrival to the city on day 1 (or earlier if you have booked pre-accommodation with us), please make your way to the joining hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon). Once you arrive at the hotel, look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your CEO. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your CEO and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your CEO will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

Directions:

Berlin Transport

Taxis in Berlin are metered. The MyTaxi application can be used to order and pay for metered taxis. Rideshare applications like Uber are also available in Berlin.

Tickets for trains in Berlin need to be bought in advance of boarding. Ticket vending machines are located in the train stations. You must validate your ticket in the stamping machines, which mark the ticket with the time and place of use.

Tickets for the bus and tram can be bought from machines before boarding, or else on board.

Public transport tickets are valid for the whole journey; you do not need to buy separate tickets when transferring.

You do not need to show a ticket to get on the train. However, there are many ticket inspectors in Berlin who issue instant fines, so please ensure you remember to purchase (and validate) your ticket.

Getting to Berlin from Tegel Airport

A taxi from Tegel Airport to central Berlin costs approximately €30 - €40.

The TXL Express Bus runs from Tegel Airport to Berlin's centre.

- The TXL Express Bus stops right outside the terminal and departs at least every 10 minutes.
- The TXL Express bus stops at both the Hauptbahnhof, Berlin's main train station with national and international train connections, and Alexanderplatz, Berlin's central square which nearly all train lines pass through.
- The bus takes about 30 to 40 minutes to get to the centre of Berlin and costs €2.80 (a Zone AB ticket).

Getting to Berlin from Schönefeld Airport

A taxi from Schönefeld Airport to central Berlin costs approximately €35 - €45.

The S9, RE 7 and RB 14 rail lines all run between Schönefeld Airport and Berlin's centre.

- On exiting the airport, follow the covered walkway to the train station (approximately 10 minutes' walk). Trains and platforms are clearly marked.
- The S9, RE 7 and RB 14 stop at the Ostbahnhof (the stop for the Ibis Ostbahnhof Hotel), Alexanderplatz (the central city square), and the Hauptbahnhof (Berlin's main train station). You can take whichever of these trains is departing next.
- The trains take between 25 and 40 minutes to get to the centre of Berlin and cost €3.30 (a Zone ABC ticket).

# **Arrival Complications**

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your CEO (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details.

## **Emergency Contact**

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call our Travel There Co Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER**

Travel There Co Berlin office: +4915203076785

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below, which will connect you directly with our 24 hour Sales team, who will happily assist you.

Toll-free, from calls within North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from within UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from within Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from within Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from within New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

### What to Take

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. A daypack is also essential for carrying everyday items. Space is limited on transportation, so there is a limit of one main piece of luggage per person. You will be responsible for carrying your own luggage. You must be prepared to carry your luggage up and down stairs, on and off transportation, and to hotels (max 15-20 mins.)

### Checklist

#### Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Required visas or vaccination certificates (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)

## Essentials:

- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)

- · Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- · Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Toiletries (Preferably biodegradable)
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

### Health & Safety:

- Face masks (required)
- Hand sanitizer (required)
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.
- Rubber gloves

#### Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

## Laundry

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

# Visas and Entry Requirements

Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

All visitors to the EU (European Union) and EEC (European Economic Community) countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand passport holders do not need a visa to visit the Schengen area (see below), however they may not stay longer than three months in any 6-month period.

For other nationalities, travelling in Europe has been simplified with the introduction of the Schengen visa. As a visitor to the Schengen area (Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal, Finland, Italy, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia,



Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland) you will enjoy the many advantages of this unified visa system. Generally speaking with a Schengen visa, you may enter one Schengen country and travel freely throughout the Schengen region during the validity of your visa. There are limited border controls at Schengen borders, if any at all.

Please note that the UK and Ireland are NOT part of the Schengen agreement.

A Schengen visa is applied for at the Embassy or Consulate of the Schengen country in which you will be spending the most nights on your trip to the Schengen space. If you are only visiting one country on your trip then you apply for your visa at the Consulate of this Schengen country.

# **Spending Money**

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## **Money Exchange**

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. Visa cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work - Check with your bank. You should be aware when purchasing products or services on a credit card, that a fee usually applies.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of Euros, traveller's cheques and cards is best. Avoid relying on traveller's cheques alone as these are less and less readily cashed as clients use them very little.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

Please note that in all countries visited except for Germany and Austria (EURO), you will need local currency. Below are listed the currencies for each country with an approximate exchange rate.

Czech Republic - Czech Republic Koruna (CZK) Hungary - Forint (HUF) Poland - Zloty (PLN)

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com

### **Emergency Fund**

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

### **Departure Tax**

### **Tipping**

While conventions can vary from country to country, tipping is customary in Europe. A general rule is 10% of the bill for wait staff, and a smaller amount (€1 or €2) for other service providers.

Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program, and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is

of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides. You may do this individually, or your CEO will offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Recommendations for tipping local guides would range from €3-5 per day, depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

At the end of each trip, if you felt your Travel There Co CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is expected and appreciated. The precise amount is a personal preference, however €30-€40 per person, per week can be used as a guideline.

## **Optional Activities**

#### Berlin

- East Side Gallery Visit Along Berlin Wall (Free)
- Checkpoint Charlie Museum Visit (13EUR per person)
- Judisches Museum Visit (8EUR per person)
- Television Tower (Fernsehturm) Visit (13-23EUR per person)
- Brandenburg Gate Visit (Free)
- The Berlin Wall Memorial (Free)
- Pergamon Museum (12EUR per person)
- Schloss Charlottenburg Palace (10EUR per person)

#### Kraków

- Rynek Underground Museum (19PLN per person)
- Old Jewish Quarter (Kazimierz)
- Wawel Royal Castle (3PLN per person)
- Bar Mleczny (Milk Bar) Meal
- Horse and Carriage Ride

#### Wieliczka

- Wieliczka Salt Mines Visit (79PLN per person)

#### Prague

- Mucha Museum (240CZK per person)
- Old Town Visit
- Prague Ghetto (Josefov/Jewish Quarter) Visit (10-20EUR per person)
- Pet?ín Hill Hike (Free-30CZK per person)
- Prague Castle (Hrad?any) Visit (250-350CZK per person)
- Letná Beer Garden Visit (Free-3EUR per person)
- Kafka Museum (200CZK per person)
- Old Town Hall and Clock Tower (110-440CZK per person)
- Charles Bridge Visit (Free)
- Museum of Communism (150CZK per person)
- Malá Strana Visit

### ?eský Krumlov

- Jewish Synagogue ?eský Krumlov Visit (Free)
- State Castle and Chateau ?eský Krumlov Tour (360CZK per person)
- Biking (5-10EUR per person)

#### Vienna

- Saint Stephen's Cathedral Visit (Free)
- Belvedere Gallery Visit (19EUR per person)
- Vienna Boys' Choir Visit (35EUR per person)
- Vienna State Opera House Visit (8EUR per person)
- View Lipizzaner Horses at Spanish Riding School of Vienna (14EUR per person)
- Hotel Sacher Visit and dessert (30-50EUR per person)
- Schönbrunn Palace Visit/Tour (11-15EUR per person)



#### **Budapest**

- Buda Castle Visit (1500HUF per person)
- Thermal Baths Visit (4200-5000HUF per person)
- Budapest Bike Tour (28EUR per person)
- Hungarian National Museum (1600HUF per person)
- Hungarian State Opera House (2900HUF per person)
- Great Market Hall Visit (Free)
- Chain Bridge (Free)
- Budapest History Walking Tour
- Parliament Building Visit (5200HUF per person)
- Danube River Cruise

### Health

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that quite often we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. Travel There Co reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

## **Safety and Security**

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck walled or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

<a href="http://www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/"> www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/</a>

## **Trip Specific Safety**

#### **Medical Form**

## **A Couple of Rules**

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

## A Word of Warning

### **Travel Insurance**

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

### **Local Dress**

### **Feedback**

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that you'll receive a special discount code for free online prints and we'll give you 5% off the price of your next Travel There Co trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Please visit http://www.gadventures.com/evaluations

### Minimum Age

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a Travel There Co tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

### **International Flights**

Check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

