



SPLENDOURS OF BUDAPEST, VIENNA & PRAGUE - A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2024)

Discover the three most radiant cities in Central Europe and experience the grand architectural, artistic and cultural heritage of the Old World, exploring Baroque-era treasures with the finest local experts.

Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys



Europe, Hungary, Austria, Czech
Republic



10 days from AU\$15,370 pp



18 Guests

Journey Overview

Discover the three most radiant cities in Central Europe and experience the grand architectural, artistic and cultural heritage of the Old World, exploring Baroque-era treasures with the finest local experts.

Journey Highlights

- Absorb the imperial grandeur of Budapest, a city that has survived the passing of empires and kept its romantic allure, where you savour an exclusive garden lunch at a private villa
- Take in the dazzling beauty of Budapest illuminated at night, viewing impressive examples of architecture along the way, on a private evening cruise on the Danube
- Attend an intimate concert at the Mozarthaus in Vienna, which was a mecca for great composers, including Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Strauss, for more than a century
- Savour local wines on a visit to an award-winning winery in Moravia, set on vineyards dating back to the 13th century
- Privately explore the library of the Strahov Monastery in Prague, gaining access to an area usually closed to the public, on a guided visit exclusively for A&K guests



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Budapest, Hungary

Arrive in Budapest, a city occupying both sides of the Danube River and founded in 1873, when right-bank Buda and Obuda joined left-bank Pest. Budapest's broad avenues and turn-of-the-century architecture have earned it the name, "the Paris of Eastern Europe." Like Paris, it is a cultural mecca for writers, artists and musicians. Transfer to your hotel, where you join your fellow guests for a welcome dinner.

Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace Budapest | Meals: D

Day 2: Budapest | Matthias Church & Fisherman's Bastion

This morning, cross the Danube River to explore the Buda side of the city. Visit Matthias Church, the 13th-century coronation cathedral of Hungarian kings, and Fisherman's Bastion, offering spectacular views of the city. Built in neo-Gothic and neo-Romanesque styles, the bastion is named for the guild of fishermen who defended this part of the city during the Middle Ages. Then, meet a Buda resident for lunch in the gardens of her villa, an experience specially planned for A&K guests. Enjoy your afternoon at leisure, relaxing in your luxurious accommodations or exploring this romantic city on your own, perhaps dining at one of Budapest's fine restaurants.

Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace Budapest | Meals: BL

Day 3: Budapest | Across the Bridge in Pest

Today, discover Pest, starting with a private visit to the Liszt Academy of Music. Continue exploring the city as you view Heroes' Square and stop to see the Great Synagogue as well as St. Stephen's Basilica, whose south tower houses the largest bell in Hungary. Then, visit the Central Market Hall to view the vast array of food and crafts on sale throughout its three floors, including cheeses, sausage and other local specialties, and enjoy time at leisure for lunch on your own. Later, visit the Parliament Building before spending the remainder of your afternoon at leisure. This evening, after dinner, embark on a private cruise of the romantic Danube to watch the glittering lights of Budapest drift by in the night, toasting your journey on a memorable Scenic Sundowner experience.

Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace Budapest | Meals: BD

Day 4: Bratislava, Slovakia & Vienna, Austria | Chef's Table

Journey overland to Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, for a guided walk through its old town, once a jewel of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Stop at a local restaurant for a Chef's Table experience, where the esteemed chef greets you and shares insights into the seasonal dishes you are to enjoy for lunch. Then, Ride Like a Local, embarking by high-speed catamaran for a quick cruise along the Danube River to Vienna, Austria.

Hotel Imperial | Meals: BL

Day 5: Vienna | Austrian Treasures

Join your local guide for a walking tour of marvellous Vienna. At the Hofburg Palace — former seat of emperors and current residence of the president of Austria — visit the Imperial Treasury to admire its glittering collection of imperial regalia. Then, continue to the Gothic St. Stephen's Cathedral. Spend your afternoon at leisure. Dine at a local restaurant before attending a concert at the Mozarthaus Vienna, the historic house where Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart lived in the 18th century.

Hotel Imperial | Meals: BD

Day 6: Vienna | Visions of the Imperial City

This morning, enjoy a panoramic tour of Vienna, viewing the Prater and its Giant Ferris Wheel. See the Secession Building and the famous Hundertwasser House, and then visit the Belvedere Gallery, where you view many works by the brilliant and controversial symbolist artist Gustav Klimt, including *The Kiss*. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, and then visit Schönbrunn Palace, the former residence of Habsburg monarchs. Spend your evening at leisure.

Hotel Imperial | Meals: BL

Day 7: Moravia, Czech Republic | Wines of a Rare Terroir

Travel to Prague, stopping en route at the Stary Vrch winery in the Czech countryside for a tasting of its signature vintages, followed by lunch. Continue to Prague, where you check in to your hotel, and then enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Mandarin Oriental, Prague | Meals: BLD

Day 8: Prague | History Remembered

Today, explore the city's Castle District, starting with the towering, Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral, which houses the tombs of Bohemian kings and Holy Roman Emperors, including that of Wenceslas I, Duke of Bohemia, legendary subject of the beloved Christmas carol "Good King Wenceslas." Stroll the Golden Lane, the last surviving vestige of Prague Castle's 16th-century architecture, where the castle's original craftspeople lived and worked. Follow this with a private visit to the Baroque library halls of the Strahov Monastery to view its incredible frescoes, which reside amid detailed stucco ceiling decorations. Stroll in the peaceful quiet, looking up at the mural devoted to the intellectual progress of mankind, and let yourself contemplate a bygone era. Then, admire the religious artifacts at the Loreto Chapel, a remarkable Baroque monument that remains a place of pilgrimage.

Cross the famous Charles Bridge, an iconic landmark of Prague completed in 1402, to embark on a walking tour of Josefov, the city's Jewish Quarter, which remained a walled ghetto until 1848. View the birthplace of Franz Kafka (part of the Jewish Museum complex), best known for his existentialist novel *The Metamorphosis*. Proceed to visit the Old Jewish Cemetery, site of 12,000 graves, and the Old-New Synagogue, Europe's oldest active synagogue, completed in 1270. Afterward, enjoy your evening at leisure.

Mandarin Oriental, Prague | Meals: B

Day 9: Prague | Design Your Day

This morning, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

- **Attend a Traditional Puppetry Workshop**, and then visit the National Gallery Prague in the Schwarzenberg Palace.
- **Set Out on a Foodie Walking Tour**, savouring tastes of Czech cuisine, from pastries to goulash to beer.
- **Relax with a Spa Experience at your hotel**, in a haven for the body and spirit, choosing from an array of treatments.

Spend your afternoon at leisure. Tonight, gather for a celebratory farewell dinner at a nearby local restaurant.

Mandarin Oriental, Prague | Meals: BD

Day 10: Depart Prague

Transfer to the airport to board your flight home.

Meals: B

Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 6:30 p.m. on Day 1.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:30 p.m. on Day 9.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Your Choice of Activity on Design Your Day
- Traveller's Valet Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

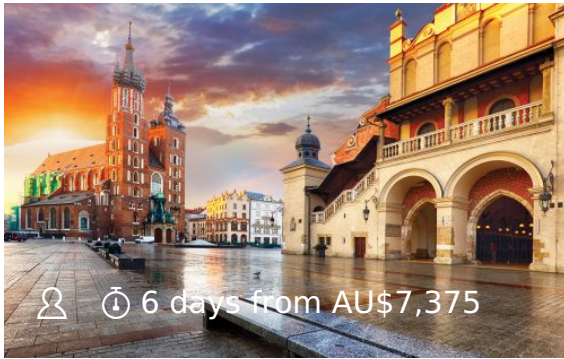
Customise this Journey

Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke tailor-made journey based on this itinerary.

Map



Extensions



Warsaw & Krakow Pre -
Tour Extension - A Luxury
Small Group Journey
(2024)

See Details

Accommodation

Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace, Budapest



A glittering jewel on the banks of the Danube, Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace is one of Europe's finest art nouveau buildings. Original features have been lovingly restored, re-inventing this architectural wonder as a vintage hotel with a modern twist - with sweeping staircases, stained glass, mosaics and soaring vaulted ceilings combining effortlessly with ultra-modern touches.

The Gresham Palace's 179 rooms, including 17 suites, reflect the grandeur and beauty of the art nouveau period and offer sensational views - taking in intimate interior courtyards, the sparkling Danube and Chain Bridge, the Royal Castle and the Buda Hills beyond. From the elegant Premier Rooms with marble bathrooms and immaculate styling to the gloriously decadent Royal Suite, reserved for VIPs, the hotel's rooms are flawlessly luxurious.

The Four Seasons offers an ideal base from which to explore a plethora of theatres, galleries and historic buildings - including the impressive Heroes' Square, where the Archangel Gabriel gazes down upon the Museum of Fine arts and the Kunsthalle from atop the towering Millennium Monument.

Why we like it

- The Gresham Palace offers spectacular view of the Danube, the Castle Palace and the

hills of Buda

- Many of the rooms and suites reflect the architectural heritage of Gresham Palace, with vaulted ceilings and private step-out balconies
- The Gresham Restaurant offers modern Hungarian and International cuisine in an elegant setting
- The spa, inspired by Budapest's rich spa heritage, offers an extensive range of massages and treatments
- The hotel has a rooftop, indoor pool with infinity edge

Hotel Imperial



Experience history, tradition, luxury and romance in the perfect harmony. The Imperial Hotel is a home to such iconic classical composers as Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Strauss as Vienna boasts more than 50 theatres and opera houses. The Vienna waltz originated here, and its centuries-old spirit still permeates the city's dancehalls. The expert concierge and butlers attend to all wishes and desires before they are expressed, such as having a hand-ironed newspaper delivered bedside with morning tea.

The Imperial Hotel offers 138 rooms and suites appointed with original paintings, antiques, stucco ceilings and fine fabrics will meet your highest expectations. The lavish décor and valuable art treasures blend harmoniously with the carefully co-ordinated interior. A team of dedicated staff members are available 24/7 to make your stay a once-in-a-lifetime experience in an imperial atmosphere. A private butler service is even available on request - Viennese charm included!

Catering to your individual wishes is top priority, whether at the *Café Imperial Wien*, the exclusive *Restaurant OPUS*, or in the elegant banquet rooms, magnificent halls or suites. The magnificent 1873-HalleNsalon with its attractive bar is the hotel's centrepiece.

The state-of-the-art fitness and health studio is magnificently located on the roof of the Hotel Imperial.

Why we like it:

- Hotel Imperial has a worldwide reputation and proudly welcomes members of royal families, politicians and other international opinion leaders.
- Opportunity to sleep in a former chamber of prince Philipp of Wuerttemberg to make you feel like a royal

- Tastefully furnished with precious, authentic antiques, walls cocooned in jewel-toned silk, and bathrooms made of marble, the rooms and suites blend the timeless elegance of 19th Century Vienna with state-of-the-art facilities and amenities

Mandarin Oriental, Prague



Perched on the bank of the Vltava River, Mandarin Oriental Prague is a beautiful historic hotel hidden in the heart of the Czech capital. Located on one of the city's prettiest streets, Malá Strana, it is within walking distance of many of the main attractions, including the Old Town Square and Prague Castle. Having been built on the site of a former 14th century monastery, the Mandarin Oriental's interiors have spared the original period features and complemented them with contemporary design pieces. 79 rooms are spread across the Baroque, Renaissance and Spa Wing with each enjoying its own individual design as well as added luxury features such as goose down bedding, heated towel rails and interactive entertainment systems. Of the 20 elegant suites, our favourite has to be the Ludwig Moser Crystal Suite, located in the Baroque wing, it features crystal accessories and decorations designed by Moser - the Czech Republic's premier crystal manufacturer - as well as tall ceilings, a spacious living room, stone-clad bathroom and one of the largest grand corner bedrooms in the hotel. Views from both rooms and suites can overlook the castle, monastery gardens or city.

In the sophisticated setting of Spices Restaurant and Bar, you can enjoy a taste of the east with dishes such as Malaysian Jackfruit curry, Shumai steamed dumplings and freshwater catfish glazed in ginger. Alternatively, the lounge and terrace is perfect for light lunches, classic cocktails and al fresco dining. Spread over two floors, The Spa at Mandarin Oriental Prague offers three treatment rooms, spa suite with vitality pool, relaxing tea lounge and fitness centre with two saunas.

Why we like it

- Luxury hotel built on the site of a former 14th century monastery
- Located in the quiet streets of Mala Strana, close to Prague Castle, the Old Town Square and Wenceslas Square
- Historic character and contemporary design
- Outdoor terrace for al fresco dining
- Home to the world's only spa located in former Renaissance chapel

Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

Aug 12, 2024 - Aug 21, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$15,370 pp	AU\$5,840	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Aug 26, 2024 - Sep 4, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$15,370 pp	AU\$5,840	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Sep 2, 2024 - Sep 11, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$15,685 pp	AU\$6,145	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Sep 9, 2024 - Sep 18, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$15,685 pp	AU\$6,145	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Sep 16, 2024 - Sep 25, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$15,685 pp	AU\$6,145	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Sep 23, 2024 - Oct 2, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$15,685 pp	AU\$6,145	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Sep 30, 2024 - Oct 9, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$15,685 pp	AU\$6,145	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Oct 7, 2024 - Oct 16, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$15,685 pp	AU\$6,145	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Oct 14, 2024 - Oct 23, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$15,685 pp	AU\$6,145	AU\$0	Call for Availability

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