

American Celebration of Music in Austria, Hungary, & the Czech Republic

The "Three Capitals" Tour

Tour #4 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Budapest, Hungary

Day 2

Budapest

(D)

Arrive in Budapest

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for the transfer into Budapest. Although a different language is spoken here, Hungary was for centuries a part of the Habsburg Empire and the trappings and influence of the monarchy are still here. The old and new have blended to create one of Europe's most beautiful cities. Liszt, Bartok and von Weber are among Hungary's famous musicians

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Welcome Dinner and overnight

Budapest is the modern combination of three cities: Obuda, Buda and Pest. Linked by eight bridges, these cities have retained their own distinctive characteristics, but their combination has created one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

Day 3

Budapest

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning guided tour of Budapest to include the Parliament, Chain Bridge, Royal Castle Hill (for an incredible view of the city), St. Stephen's Cathedral, Matthias Church, Fisherman's Bastion (including entrance), and the picturesque streets of Táncsis Mihály utca, Uri utca and Fortuna utca which feature splendid examples of medieval houses and Baroque mansions

Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Hungary

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

Eisenstadt / Vienna

(B,D)

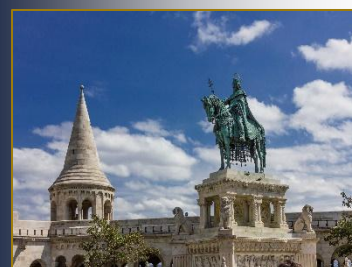
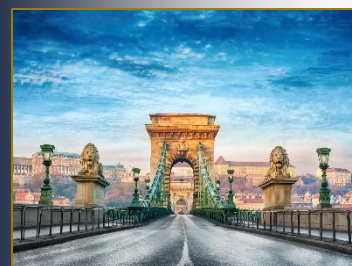
Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Travel along the Danube to Vienna, stopping enroute in Eisenstadt. Everything in Eisenstadt reminds one of the brilliant composer Franz Joseph Haydn. Entrance is included to Esterhazy Palace with its Haydnsaal, where many of Haydn's works were premiered (*Choirs may sing a short recital*)

Lunch, on own

Continue to Vienna, stopping at the Vienna Central Cemetery to visit the graves of Beethoven, Strauss, Brahms, Schubert and the Mozart Memorial

Evening dinner and overnight



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Vienna is still considered the music capital of the world. It is a city of refined tastes, grace, style and unmatched artistic accomplishments. For a thousand years, Vienna was the capital of the far-flung Holy Roman and Hapsburg empires. Though its people and ways have changed, Vienna has retained its imperial monuments, not as reminders of past glories, but as living symbols of its present freedom

Day 5 **Vienna** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day guided tour of *Historical Vienna* includes the Ringstraße, Imperial Palace, State Opera, Town Hall, Burgkapelle (home of the Vienna Boys Choir), Palace Stables, Strauß Monument, and entrance to Schönbrunn Palace, built by the Hapsburgs in imitation of Versailles

Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Austria

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 6 **Vienna** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day guided tour of *Musical Vienna* including entrance to the Haus der Musik (House of Music), a modern interactive sound museum located in the historic city center. This tour also includes the Museum of the Vienna Philharmonic, which is part of the House of Music OR visit the Collection of Historical Musical Instruments at the Hofburg Palace, home to the most important collection of renaissance and baroque instruments worldwide

Lunch, on own

Possible afternoon workshop or clinic

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 7 **Prague** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Morning transfer to Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic

Lunch, on own

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Prague's highlights including a gorgeous overview of the city from Hradcany Castle Hill. Also have some time at leisure

Evening dinner and overnight

Prague is one of the most enchanting cities in Europe. It was under Charles IV during the 14th century that Prague briefly became the seat of the Holy Roman Empire (virtually the capital of Western Europe) and acquired its distinctive Gothic imprint. Prague escaped serious wartime damage and is considered one of the most beautiful cities in Europe today. Mozart claimed that no one understood him better than the citizens of Prague, and he was only one of several great masters who lived or lingered here

Day 8 **Prague** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a half-day tour of *Musical Prague* including entrance to the Lobkowitz Palace to view original scores and manuscripts by Beethoven, including his 4th & 5th symphonies

Also visit the Castle District, where entrance is included to Hradcany Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace, the Golden Lane, and Daliborka Tower. Also visit Lobkowitz Palace with its large music archive containing works by over five hundred composers and musicians. The Music Archive is most celebrated for its collection of works by Handel, Mozart, Haydn and



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Beethoven

Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in the Czech Republic

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 9

Prague

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Step into the enchanting Old Town of Prague, where history breathes through cobblestone streets and timeless architecture. Surrounded by colorful facades and adorned with elegant spires, the square is a living testament to Prague's rich heritage. One of the focal points of Old Town Square is the magnificent Astronomical Clock, a marvel of medieval engineering and craftsmanship. As the hour approaches, crowds gather to witness the animated procession of figures and the ringing of the bell. Marvel at the intricate details of the clock's astronomical dial and the captivating storytelling that accompanies each hourly display. A short stroll from the Old Town Square leads to the Jewish Quarter, a district steeped in history and cultural significance. The Jewish Square houses synagogues, a cemetery, and the iconic Old Jewish Town Hall. Explore the Spanish Synagogue, an architectural gem adorned with intricate Moorish details, and reflect on the complex history of the Jewish community in Prague

Lunch, on own

Afternoon at leisure

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 10

Depart for home

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the Prague Airport for the return flight

***This is a very flexible itinerary.** Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.*

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