THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Duration
10 days

Activity Level
Moderate

Journey Type
Land
River

Royal Cities of Central Europe

September 3-13, 2027

Prague, Dresden and a River Journey | Starting from $6,745/pp

Embark on an enriching land-and-river journey through the cultural heart of the Czech Republic and Saxony! Begin with two nights in enchanting Prague, then settle in for a five-night cruise along the scenic Vltava River before concluding with two full days in Dresden, Germany. Discover Prague's castle and its historic city center, stately Bohemian castles steeped in noble heritage, Dresden's celebrated artistic and cultural treasures and 10th-century Litom Yice. Enjoy a local beer tasting, a selection of included excursions in Prague and ample free time to explore other storied cities!





Day-by-Day Itinerary

Royal Cities of Central Europe

Prague, Dresden and a River Journey

Air Program: 11 days/ 10 nights (includes 1 air night)

Land/Cruise Program: 10 days/9 nights

Breakfasts: 9 | Lunches: 4 | Dinners: 5 | Receptions: 3

B | L | R | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches, receptions and dinners.

A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land/Cruise Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land/Cruise Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.

This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.

Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands. Excursions on this program require: walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces; and getting on/off the river ship and motor coaches.

- Mild – Walk under 1 mile on mainly flat terrain; navigate under 50 stairs; stand under 1 hour
- Moderate – Walk 1–3 miles on flat/uneven terrain; navigate 50–100 stairs; stand 1–2 hours
- Active – Walk 2+ miles on flat/uneven terrain, including up and down inclines; navigate 100+ stairs; stand 3+ hours

Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Prague, Czech Republic. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: PRG.

Day 2 | Prague, Czech Republic

Cosmopolitan Prague Hotel

R

Arrive at Václav Havel Airport Prague. Proceed through immigration and then to the baggage claim area to retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land/Cruise Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the designated meeting spot, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The meeting location will be provided with your final documents.

Transfer to the Cosmopolitan Prague Hotel. Please note, if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

Meet and mingle with your fellow travelers at this evening's Welcome Reception at the hotel.

Afterward, enjoy the freedom to explore Prague's vibrant dining scene on your own, from classic Czech taverns to inventive international restaurants. Your AHI Travel Director will be pleased to offer recommendations.

Day 3 | Prague

Cosmopolitan Prague Hotel

B

A generous breakfast buffet will be served at the hotel each morning.

Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, unfolds as a living chronicle of European history spanning more than a millennium. Founded in the ninth century, it rose to prominence as the seat of Bohemian kings and later flourished as the capital of the Holy Roman Empire under Charles IV in the 14th century. The city's Renaissance and baroque splendor endured periods of upheaval, from the Thirty Years' War to centuries of Habsburg rule. In the 20th century, Prague witnessed Nazi occupation and decades of communist control before the peaceful Velvet Revolution of 1989 ushered in a new democratic era.

Enrichment: The Velvet Revolution. During a morning lecture, gain insight into the Velvet Revolution, the defining moment that peacefully brought an end to communist rule in Czechoslovakia and paved the way for the emergence of the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Prague Walking Tour. Embark on a guided walk through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Historic Centre of Prague, making your way to Old Town Square, once the bustling marketplace and political heart of medieval Bohemia. Along the way, admire the richly colored baroque and Gothic façades and churches that frame the square. Pause at the Astronomical Clock, installed in 1410 and still the world's oldest working astronomical clock. Each hour, the famed "Walk of the Apostles" unfolds as 12 carved figures appear in the clock's windows, culminating in the crow of a golden rooster and the chiming of bells. (Moderate)

Free Time: Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure in Prague, with lunch and dinner on your own. Your AHI Travel Director will be available to assist with sightseeing ideas and dining suggestions.

Day 4 | Karlovy Vary • eský Krumlov | Prague | Embark ship

MS Elbe Princesse

B | R | D

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart for your chosen excursion below.

PYJ | Personalize Your Journey | Choose ONE of the following excursions and return the included PYJ Reservation Form with your selection by the deadline noted on the form.

- Karlovy Vary Historic Tour. Discover the celebrated spa town of Karlovy Vary on a walking tour through its historic center, founded in the 14th century. Encounter the VYídlo Geyser, the town's largest and hottest thermal spring, which erupts mineral-rich water at approximately 163°F and shoots skyward to nearly 39 feet. The geyser lies at the heart of Karlovy Vary's storied spa tradition, long associated with restorative wellness. Continue by funicular to Friendship Hill and the Diana Observation Tower for sweeping views of the Teplá River Valley, forested hills, distant mountains and the iconic Grandhotel Pupp, founded in 1701 and featured in films including "Casino Royale" and "Last Holiday." After the tour, enjoy free time for lunch on your own and independent exploration. (Moderate)
- eský Krumlov City Tour. Explore one of Bohemia's most picturesque towns, nestled along a dramatic bend of the Vltava River in South Bohemia. This enchanting destination captivates with its medieval cobblestone streets, inviting cafés, traditional Czech restaurants and artisan shops. During a walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Historic Centre of eský Krumlov, admire an exceptional array of Gothic, Renaissance and baroque architecture, including the 18th-century Plague Column and the impressive eský Krumlov Castle, built in 1253. After the tour, enjoy leisure time for lunch on your own and exploration. You may wish to dine in a medieval-style tavern serving classic Czech fare such as roast pork, dumplings and goulash. (Moderate)

This afternoon, transfer to the pier in Prague and embark the ship. Your Travel Director will provide details.

Gather aboard the ship this evening for a festive Welcome Reception and Dinner, a gracious opportunity to toast the beginning of your river journey and a delightful prelude to the experiences that await!

Day 5 | Cruising the Vltava River | Št chovice

MS Elbe Princesse

B | L | D

Enjoy a freshly prepared breakfast aboard the ship each morning during your cruise.

This morning, begin cruising along the Vltava River, drifting through Bohemia's tranquil countryside as wooded hills, riverside villages and the impressive Slapy Dam come into view. Following a leisurely lunch on board, arrive in the riverside town of Št chovice for disembarkation.

Konopišt Castle. This afternoon, set out for an afternoon visit to the 13th-century Konopišt Castle, originally a medieval fortress that later became a favored hunting residence of the House of Habsburg. On a guided tour, step into the world of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir

to the Austro-Hungarian throne, whose assassination in 1914 helped ignite World War I. Admire the stately entrance, landscaped gardens and expansive parklands before exploring richly appointed interiors filled with period furnishings, tapestries and finely crafted woodwork. Particularly striking is Ferdinand's extraordinary collection of hunting trophies, among the largest in Europe, alongside an impressive display of medieval and Renaissance armor and weaponry. (Moderate)

Return to the ship to unwind before dinner. Served aboard the ship each evening, dinner features a gourmet selection of both international and regional cuisine crafted by talented chefs. Savor artfully prepared dishes that highlight fresh, seasonal ingredients, paired with fine wines and attentive service.

Free Time: This evening, remain aboard to enjoy onboard entertainment or stroll into the village of Št chovice to experience its intimate, old-Bohemian character.

The ship overnights in Št chovice.

Day 6 | Prague

MS Elbe Princesse

B | L | D

After breakfast, travel by deluxe motor coach from Št chovice to Prague Castle above the city.

Prague Castle & St. Vitus Cathedral. Begin a guided exploration of the world's largest ancient castle complex, a seat of Czech power since the 9th century and an enduring symbol of the nation. Enter through the ornate Matthias Gate, a baroque triumph adorned with sculpted Titans and heraldic details. Within the castle grounds, view the Castle Gallery and wander along the charming Golden Lane, a narrow 16th-century street of vividly painted cottages once home to craftsmen, artists and intellectuals. Franz Kafka briefly lived here in House No. 22 during the early 20th century. Continue past the Old Royal Palace, whose vast late-Gothic Vladislav Hall hosted coronations, banquets and even jousting tournaments.

Conclude with an interior visit to St. Vitus Cathedral, the spiritual heart of the Czech lands. This Gothic masterpiece took more than six centuries to complete and served as the coronation site for Bohemian kings and queens. Inside, admire soaring vaults, luminous stained glass and the celebrated art nouveau window by Alphonse Mucha depicting Saints Cyril and Methodius. The cathedral also houses the tombs of Czech kings and Holy Roman Emperors. (Moderate)

Pause to enjoy lunch together at a café within the castle complex.

Prague's Historic Jewish Quarter. This afternoon, delve into Josefov, Prague's historic Jewish Quarter, on a guided walk that traces centuries of Jewish life in Bohemia and Moravia. Pause at key sites of the Prague Jewish Museum, dispersed throughout the quarter and collectively offering a deeply moving portrait of cultural, religious and social history. Visit the Old Synagogue, Europe's oldest active synagogue, completed around 1270. Then, walk through the Old Jewish Cemetery, where thousands of gravestones, some dating to the 15th century, are closely layered atop one another. This evocative quarter preserves the legacy of one of Europe's most influential Jewish communities. (Moderate)

Return to the ship, now docked in Prague.

Free Time: After dinner, you may wish to head back into Prague to explore further at your own pace.

The ship overnights in Prague.

Day 7 | Cruising | Kralupy | M lník

MS Elbe Princesse

B | L | D

Depart Prague this morning for scenic cruising on the Vltava River on your way to Kralupy. After lunch on board, disembark for an afternoon devoted to Bohemian aristocratic life.

Nelahozeves Castle. Visit one of Bohemia's most distinguished Renaissance castles, dramatically set above the Vltava River and long associated with the eminent Lobkowicz family. Built in the 16th century, the castle's elegant design evokes an Italian Renaissance villa, with a grand arcaded courtyard and a façade richly decorated in sgraffito scenes drawn from mythology and the Bible. Inside, explore

sumptuously furnished rooms that reflect the refined tastes of Bohemian nobility. Highlights include the Knight's Hall, Grand Dining Room and Music Room, along with treasures from the Lobkowicz private collection, featuring rare manuscripts, historic books, fine porcelain, antique furniture, musical instruments and paintings by Old Masters such as Rubens and Velázquez. (Moderate)

Rejoin the ship, now docked in M lník, where it will remain overnight.

Free Time: This evening, consider a walk through M lník's historic Town Square, where lively cafés, restaurants and traditional architecture create an inviting atmosphere.

Day 8 | Litom Yice | M lník | Kralupy

MS Elbe Princesse

B | L | D

This morning, travel by motor coach from the ship to Litom Yice, one of Bohemia's oldest cities, founded in the 10th century near the confluence of the Elbe and OhYe rivers. Granted "royal town" status in 1219, Litom Yice flourished as a political, cultural and ecclesiastical center during the Middle Ages.

Litom Yice Walking Tour. Upon arrival, enjoy a guided stroll through the beautifully preserved old town, encircled by nearly 6,000 feet of original medieval walls. Discover a harmonious blend of baroque, Gothic and Renaissance architecture, including arcaded townhouses and the historic Old Town Hall. As the seat of a Catholic bishopric since the 17th century, the city's ecclesiastical quarter centers on St. Stephen's Cathedral and the adjacent bishop's residence. (Moderate)

AHI Connects | Czech Brewery Visit & Tasting. Following your walk, delve into Czechia's celebrated brewing heritage at a local craft brewery. Learn about centuries-old traditions, including the distinctive triple decoction mash, and the high-quality ingredients that define Czech beer. Sample a selection of brews and appreciate the balance and character that have made Czech beer world-renowned.- (Moderate)

Return to the ship in M lník for lunch and an afternoon of leisurely cruising for Kralupy.

The ship arrives and overnights in Kralupy.

Day 9 | Disembark ship | Dresden, Germany

Hilton Dresden

B

After breakfast, disembark the ship for a scenic drive to Dresden and a full day of exploration. The capital of Saxony is often referred to as the "Florence on the Elbe," due to its magnificent baroque architecture and rich artistic legacy. Though heavily damaged during World War II, Dresden has been painstakingly restored to reflect its historic grandeur.

Treasures of Dresden. As you arrive in Dresden, enjoy a panoramic introduction to the city, passing castles along the Elbe and crossing the iconic Blue Wonder bridge. Continue through the elegant Weisser Hirsch district, known for its historic spa culture and stately villas, and through Albertplatz in the Neustadt, where historic fountains reflect the city's dynamic spirit. Drive along Königstraße, an 18th-century boulevard lined with galleries, boutiques and cafés.

Arrive at Theaterplatz to begin a guided walking tour of Dresden's royal quarter. Admire the Zwinger Palace, a masterpiece of baroque design, along with the Hotel Taschenbergpalais Kempinski and the Dresden Royal Palace, long the residence of Saxon rulers. Pass the Royal Catholic Cathedral, Saxony's largest church, and pause at the Frauenkirche to view the monumental porcelain mural, "Procession of the Dukes," depicting centuries of Wettin dynasty rulers. (Moderate)

Free Time: Following the tour, enjoy time at leisure to have lunch independently.

Green Vault. Next, you will visit the Green Vault within Dresden's Royal Palace, one of Europe's most magnificent treasure chambers. Created in the 18th century for August the Strong, this lavish suite of galleries dazzles with masterworks of goldsmithing, rare gemstones, enamel and ivory, showcasing the wealth and artistic ambition of Saxony's electors and kings. Intricately decorated rooms display ceremonial vessels, jeweled ornaments and exquisite curiosities, offering a glimpse into the splendor, craftsmanship and courtly life of baroque Dresden. (Moderate)

Check in to the Hilton Dresden, ideally located in the heart of the Old Town near the Elbe River. The evening is yours to select a restaurant and dine at your own pace.

Day 10 | Dresden

Hilton Dresden

B | R

Dresden Opera House. After breakfast, depart the hotel for a guided tour of Dresden's Semperoper, one of Europe's most celebrated opera houses. This architectural masterpiece blends Renaissance Revival and baroque influences, its opulent interiors adorned with gilded details, frescoes and grand staircases. As you explore its elegant halls, learn about the renowned composers, performers and historic productions that have shaped its legacy, from opera and ballet to world-class symphonic concerts, revealing the enduring cultural prestige of Dresden. (Moderate)

Free Time: After the tour, seek out a café for lunch and enjoy time to revisit favorite corners of Dresden or make new discoveries on your own.

This evening, gather for a Farewell Reception at the hotel to celebrate the memorable experiences of your journey to the regal cities of Central Europe.

Savor your last dinner in Dresden at a restaurant of your choice tonight.

Day 11 | Depart for gateway city

B

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and bid farewell to your fellow passengers.

AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land/Cruise Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for the Dresden International Airport for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.









What's Included

Program Overview

- 2 nights in Prague, Czech Republic, at the first-class Cosmopolitan Prague Hotel.
- 5 nights aboard the exclusively chartered, first-class MS Elbe Princesse.
- 2 nights in Dresden, Germany, at the first-class Hilton Dresden.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 9 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners and 3 receptions.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions and Welcome Dinner to mingle with fellow travelers.
- All drinks included on board except special wines and spirits.

On-site Features

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land | Cruise Program with baggage handling.
- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Personalize Your Journey | PYJ: A choice of excursions in selected locales.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.

FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

Cosmopolitan Hotel Prague

In 2016, this former 1889 townhouse was redesigned into a contemporary boutique hotel richly merging décor of the past with the present. The Cosmopolitan Hotel Prague is ideally located near landmarks, shops and eateries on a quiet street near the Old Town. Prague awaits your discovery! Return to enjoy the hotel's contemporary luxury and exemplary service. Dine on reimagined traditional Czech cuisine at celebrity Chef Zden k Pohlreich's Next Door restaurant. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Tripadvisor

Hilton Dresden

Historic Dresden is at your doorstep at this wonderfully situated property in the heart of the old town next to the beautiful Church of Our Lady. Its ideal location puts you close to the Elbe River, the Theaterplatz, numerous restaurants and excellent museums. Take in river views at the hotel's Café Vis a Vis on the scenic Brühl's Terrace, savor hearty German fare and beer at Bierhaus Dampfschiff, or dine on delicious steak and pasta at the stylish Steakhouse Alte Muenze. Rest and relax in your comfortable, spacious room after an exciting day of exploration. The hotel features an indoor pool and fitness center. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Tripadvisor

MS Elbe Princesse

The MS Elbe Princesse is a stylish and intimate paddlewheel river cruise ship designed for exploring Bohemia's scenic rivers. Enjoy personalized service and panoramic views from spacious cabins, savor gourmet French and international cuisine, and relax in the inviting lounge bar. Discover the charm of Central Europe in style and comfort aboard this unique river cruise ship.



Pricing

$500 Full Payment Discount expires April 6, 2027
$250 Special Savings expires January 11, 2027

Category/Deck	Base Price	Special Savings*	Full Payment Discount*	Special Price
A-Upper	$8,245	**-$250**	**-$500**	$7,495
B-Main Deck	$6,745	**-$250**	**-$500**	$5,995

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; US government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $1000.00 per person. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. To view Program Terms and Conditions, close this window and scroll to the bottom of the page.

** Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 150+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.


Berlin
GERMANY
Dresden
Litomerice
Melník
Karlovy Vary
Kralupy
Prague
Štechovice
Vltava River
CZECH REPUBLIC
Ceský Krumlov
Elective



