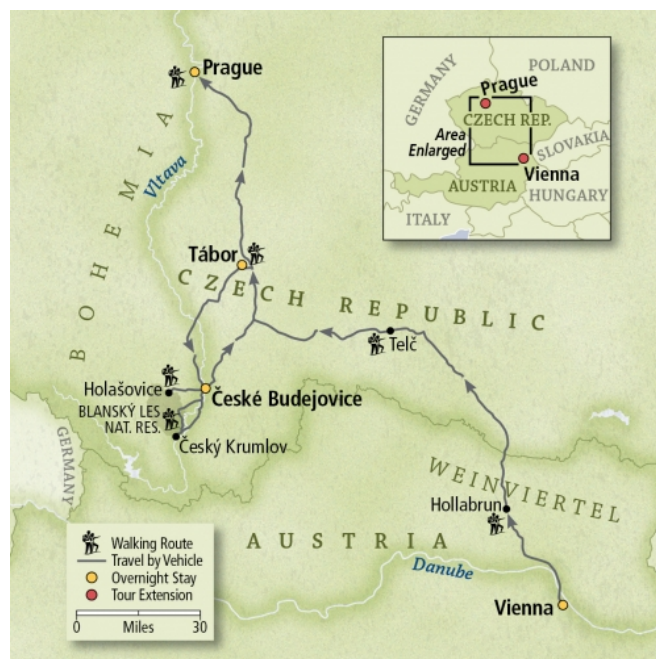


Czech Republic: Vienna to Prague

Tour-Only Itinerary

Elegant townhouses, artsy boutiques, and inviting beer gardens vie for your attention as you climb Český Krumlov's cobbled streets. But one outshines them all: the almost limitless view from the castle's six-tiered Gothic tower. Since your first day in Austria's wine country, you've enjoyed gorgeous villages, pastoral landscapes, and culinary delights. The rose gardens, spires and domes of Klokoty Monastery; the gabled Baroque farmhouses of Holašovice; the imperial brewery in Ceské Budejovice. Tomorrow you're headed toward Prague on your walking tour, crowning the week with one last stroll into central Europe's most glorious medieval city. Another evening of fine dining, convivial conversation, and Czech beer—the final touches to an unforgettable journey.



Highlights

Visit four UNESCO World Heritage sites: charming Telc, well-preserved Holašovice, medieval Ceský Krumlov, and enchanting Prague.

Enjoy a tasting of the peppery white wine, Grüner Veltliner, in one of the charming villages of Austria's Wienviertel (wine quarter).

Stay in the heart of the quiet, uncrowded, pastel-hued town of Ceské Budejovice, home to the imperial brewery for the Holy Roman Empire.

Choose from ambitious hikes, relaxed strolls, and everything in between, allowing for flexible walking options suitable for every level and preference.

On all Guided Adventures you can count on ...



Expert local guides to introduce you to the best of your destination.



Gracious accommodations that are a clean, comfortable home away from home.



Off-the-beaten-path places you'd never find on your own.



Experts to handle all the details.



A maximum of 18 fun-loving fellow travelers to share the journey.



Flight + Tour Combos include plane tickets, airport car service, and pre- and post-tour accommodations.



Delicious, authentic multi-course meals—virtually all are included.

Activity Level

This tour is one of our Guided Walking Adventures, rated easy to moderate, with an average of 6 to 9 miles per day. On most days there is the option to either shorten or lengthen the walks, thus affording a great deal of flexibility, depending on your abilities. There are slight ascents and descents each day, including steps at castles and in towns. The terrain includes grassy paths, dirt roads, and cobbled streets, with walks passing through villages, woods, pastures, and open farmland. The pace on this tour is leisurely, with an emphasis on historical towns and sites, as well as local brewing traditions.

DAY 1

Join your *Czech Republic: Vienna to Prague* tour. Walk Austria's Weinviertel region and Telc town. Transfer to Tábor, Czech Republic

2-5 miles, easy to moderate

Your guide(s) will meet you at 9:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof. Your guide(s) will be wearing a Country Walkers shirt. Please be dressed for walking.

Upon meeting in Vienna, enjoy a scenic hour-long drive north to Hollabrunn, a district in Lower Austria's beautiful *Weinviertel*. Characterized by gently rolling hills, countless vineyards, and charming villages, each with a pretty white church, the *Weinviertel* (meaning "wine quarter") is Austria's largest wine-producing area. Its most important grape variety is the peppery white Grüner Veltliner. Upon arrival in this picturesque region, you walk along quiet country lanes nestled between vineyard-covered slopes and old oak forests. This bucolic landscape is known for its wine cellar-lined roads called *Kellergassen*, meaning "wine-cellar street". You arrive in one of these villages on foot and receive a warm greeting for lunch at a family-run country inn. Perhaps you'll start with a fresh salad, followed by an excellent dish of goulash. After, enjoy a short wine presentation with a chance to sample the region's acclaimed vintages.

Later, drive across the border into the Southern Bohemian region of the Czech Republic, to visit Telc, a UNESCO World Heritage site often regarded as the best-preserved of all Bohemian and Moravian Renaissance towns. Following a devastating fire in 1530, the entire town was rebuilt in a unified Renaissance style. You enjoy a walk from one side of the town to the other, passing through its central square bordered by historical structures displaying a dazzling array of colorful, elaborate façades, covered arcades, and walkways.

After spending some time admiring Telc, a drive of just over an hour brings you to the medieval town of Tábor, arriving by early evening. Fascinatingly, Tábor was founded in the 15th century as an egalitarian peasant commune. The town is known for its maze of narrow cobblestoned streets, elaborate tunnel systems, and monumental city walls. Your home for the next three nights is ideally located right on the town's central Žižka Square. After checking in, you reunite for dinner in your hotel's excellent restaurant, famous for its updated regional cuisine.

Accommodation: Hotel Nautilus, Tábor

Included Meals: Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2

Tábor tour. Country walk

2.5-7 miles, easy to moderate

Following a delightful breakfast spread, you set off on foot to explore Tábor's historical center. From the moment you step outside your hotel onto Žižka Square, the town's medieval ambiance embraces you. Admire the Old Town Hall, one of the Czech Republic's most important Gothic buildings and home to a museum dedicated to the Pre-Lutheran Protestant movement. Meander with your guide through a labyrinth of cobblestone streets and continue into the picturesque forests surrounding the town. Follow pleasant walking paths through nearby fields and forests along an ancient pilgrimage route to the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Klokoty Monastery. This spectacular double-cross-shaped Baroque complex dates to the early 17th century and boasts numerous spires and an idyllic location above the Lužnice River. End your walk at a filming site of many current television shows and movies with medieval themes. Here, you can learn about the entertainment industry in the Czech Republic and view props and costumes. After lunch, you make your way back to the hotel.

This evening you regroup and take a short walk to dinner in Tábor.

Accommodation: Hotel Nautilus, Tábor

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3

Walk of Eight Villages

1-8.5 miles, easy

After breakfast a short transfer of 30 minutes brings you to the start of today's walk. All of today's walk options alternate between forest and open meadows with views of distant valleys, small towns, and farmsteads. These are some of the Czech Republic's dreamiest landscapes, dotted with open farmlands of grazing cows, horses, sheep, and deer as gentle hills roll towards the horizon. After lunch, you may choose to continue one mile along undulating terrain, with all options returning to Tábor by mid-afternoon.

Later, there'll be time for you to relax in your hotel. Or, explore the winding streets and shops of Tábor before dinner on your own. Your guides will point out a number of nearby restaurants to choose from.

Accommodation: Hotel Nautilus, Tábor

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4

Baroque Peasant Walk. Transfer to České Budejovice

3-7 miles, easy

After breakfast, you transfer about one hour from Tábor. Today's footpaths lead you through the peaceful countryside of Southern Bohemia—rolling hills with gentle ascents and descents. Your guides can offer flexible route options to satisfy those interested in shorter and longer walks. Throughout your idyll, you pass through some of the region's most distinct villages featuring remarkably preserved "Baroque peasant" houses. Dating from the 19th century, when farmers and merchants imitated the architectural style of the nobility, these houses are appreciated for their colorful façades, gables, and white stucco ornamentation. On the quiet streets of these working communities, you encounter the descendants of several generations of farmers who might share stories or a handful of just-picked fruit from nearby orchards. During your visit, you are invited to enjoy a home-cooked lunch prepared with fresh ingredients from local farms.

Later, you continue toward České Budejovice. This provincial town of Southern Bohemia is steeped in authenticity and charm, an undiscovered gem free of tourist crowds. Pastel-hued Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque buildings line its inviting streets leading to Ottokar II Square. České Budejovice has brewed beer since the 13th century and was home to the imperial brewery for the Holy Roman Empire. Centuries ago, its *Budweiser bier* (that is, beer from Budweis) was one of the most popular in Europe. Today, the original Budweiser Budvar beer is still brewed here. Before dinner, a short introductory walk takes you through Ottokar II Square, the largest square in the Czech Republic. From its central fountain depicting mighty Samson, narrow streets fan out into the city, framed by archways and historical buildings housing a wide range of shops and restaurants.

Accommodation: Hotel Budweis, České Budejovice

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5

Baroque Peasant Walk II into Holašovice

1-9 miles, easy

After enjoying a leisurely breakfast at your hotel, you set off on a short drive to begin your exploration of the picturesque landscape surrounding Ceské Budejovice. Your countryside walk takes you meandering through four different, beautiful villages. You eventually reach Holašovice, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its unique and well-preserved Baroque farmhouses. After touring this historical town, you stop at a local farm for a satisfying lunch, perhaps venison with cranberry sauce accompanied by freshly baked bread.

In the afternoon, a 20-minute transfer takes you back to the Ceské Budejovice to enjoy some time at your leisure. You may choose to join a guided walk of the town's surrounding parks, or, perhaps, you'll spend your time relaxing at the hotel or visiting local shops to look for the perfect souvenir. In the evening, you reunite with your group to enjoy another scrumptious dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel Budweis, Ceské Budejovice

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6

Hike the Blanský Les Nature Reserve. Walk into Ceské Krumlov

1.5-5 miles, moderate

After breakfast, you transfer to the Blanský Les Nature Reserve, a picturesque network of pastoral trails through a variety of natural habitats and mixed coniferous-deciduous forests of pine, oak, beech, and ash. A break in the trees opens up every now and then, providing a glimpse of the countryside as birdsong echoes in the canopy above. Continue on foot to the enchanting town of Ceský Krumlov, named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1992 for its historical importance and physical beauty. You enter near the 13th-century Ceský Krumlov Château, Bohemia's second-largest castle. Situated on the banks of the Moldau River—the *Vltava* in Czech—Ceský Krumlov is a showcase of elegant Gothic, Renaissance, and

Baroque buildings housing delightful cafés, pubs, restaurants, shops, and galleries along cobblestone lanes. Explore this engaging village of painters and artisans on your own for the afternoon.

Returning to Ceské Budejovice in the early evening, you enjoy a dinner on your own.

Accommodation: Hotel Budweis, Ceské Budejovice

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 7

Walk into Prague via green parklands. Prague Castle

4 miles, easy

Bid farewell to Bohemia this morning and drive two hours north through the Czech countryside to Prague, named a UNESCO World Heritage site for the 1,100 years of history represented in its urban design and architecture. Known as the “City of a Thousand Spires” Prague is the nation’s capital; its skyline is graced with gold-tipped towers, onion domes, and church steeples.

Upon arrival in Prague, you embark on a walking introduction to Prague Castle, the city’s 9th-century centerpiece. This city-within-a-city atop Castle Hill is a vast complex of buildings composed of Gothic and Romanesque churches, several palaces, stunning gardens and courtyards, and defense towers. A highlight of your castle tour includes the unique gilded glass mosaic of the Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral. Afterward, enjoy a light lunch and set off on a walk through the city’s picturesque park and gardens above the city center (a route preferred by locals).

After checking in to your hotel, conveniently located between Prague Castle and the Old Town, you may decide to relax or instead join a short walking tour of Prague’s historical Old Town Square. Admire the Old Town Hall and the medieval astronomical clock, then return to the hotel via the Jewish Quarter. Gather this evening at your hotel’s elegant restaurant, where you toast the week over a celebratory gourmet dinner accompanied by a glass of Moravian wine or the finest Czech beer.

Accommodation: Hotel Hoffmeister, Prague

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8

Your *Czech Republic: Vienna to Prague* tour concludes

Sbohem! Enjoy breakfast then bid your new friends farewell as your Czech Republic: Vienna to Prague tour comes to an end. Stay and explore Prague on your own or continue your onward travels.

Included Meals: Breakfast

What's Included

Tour Only

Exceptional boutique accommodations	✓
All on-tour meals except 2 dinners	✓
Local guides with you throughout tour	✓
Local wine and/or beer with dinner	✓
Entrance fees and special events as noted in the itinerary	✓
Travel assistance available 24/7 provided by Allianz	✓