

# Budapest – Vienna – Prague

## April 2 – 12, 2014

**Day 1 – Thursday, April 3, 2014** - Fly to Budapest Hungary – arrive the next day

**Day 2 - Friday, April 4, 2014** – Check in our hotel. Do an orientation walk of our hotel area - have lunch - go on the Walking Communist tour at 2:30 pm. After that tour walk to the Great Market Hall (Nagyvasarcsarnok) - Optional – Do the Gellert Baths open until 7 pm -Sleep in Budapest.

**Day 3 – Saturday, April 5, 2014** – At 10:30 am take a Budapest Walking tour that includes Buda's Castle Hill with the Royal Palace and the Matthias Church –Return to Deak Ferenc Ter by metro - go to St. Istvan's (St. Steven) Basilica, Budapest's largest Catholic church, its claim to fame is the 'holy right hand' of St. Istvan, a 1000 year old withered stump in a jeweled box in the chapel to the left of the main altar. Walk up Andrassy ut, Budapest's main boulevard, lined with shops, theaters, cafes and locals living well - they claim that it is like the Champs-Elysees and Broadway rolled into one. On to the House of Terror - Sleep on the Buda side across from the Parliament Building.

**Day 4 – Sunday, April 6, 2014** –Take the metro or walk to the Hungarian Parliament – English tour at 10 – 12 -ticket office opens at 8am – Monuments nearby: Hungarian flag with a hole cut out of the middle. Uprising in 1956 protesters removed the socialist style seal the Soviets had added to their flag. Earlier in the uprising communist police open fire on demonstrators killing many (look for bullet holes in the building opposite) Nearby a statue of Imre Nagy (EEM-ray nodge), hero of the 1956 uprising stand on a bridge –closer to the river stands a statue of Attila Jozsef, a popular poet that committed suicide at age 32 -At the top of Kossuth ter is the Museum of Ethnography – a fine exhibit on pre WWI Hungarian life. Walk to the Holocaust Memorial consisting of 50 pairs of bronze shoes along the Danube.–Take evening Danube Legend boat tour with Legenda. - Sleep in Budapest again.

**Day 5 – Monday, April 7, 2014** – **take the early morning train to Vienna**– Take the metro to our hotel – check in, have lunch and then do an orientation walk of the Graben pedestrian zone that includes the Monument Against War and Fascism, Kaisergruft crypt and Karntner Strasse. Tour the Hofburg Palace and Treasury – Late afternoon take Tram #1 or #2 around the Ringstrasse - check out music concerts or operas that night. Sleep on Graben Street in the middle of the city.

**Day 6 – Tuesday, April 8, 2014** – Buy tickets for the Lipizzaner Stallions museum open at 9 am and attend the practice session at 10 am. Have lunch at Naschmarkt – Do a 35 minute tour of the Opera House – then head for the Kunsthistorisches Museum, a world class exhibit of the Hapsburgs' art collection, including Raphael, Titian, Caravaggio, Bosch and Bruegel (open until 6pm) - evening music concert optional - Sleep in Vienna again.

**Day 7 – Wednesday, April 9, 2014**- Go to the Schonbrunn Palace, the spectacular summer residence of the Hapsburgs, similar in grandeur to Versailles. Back to Graben Street for some shopping- Sleep in Vienna again.

**Day 8 – Thursday, April 10, 2014 — take the early morning train to Prague** –Meet our shuttle that will take us from the train station to our hotel– check in - Walk up to the Old Town Square – to the Jan Hus Memorial to the National Gallery to -Tyn Church and the restored medieval Ungelt Courtyard . Back to the square to look at the 14<sup>th</sup> century Old Town Hall. Across from the Old Town Hall is Melantrichove Street that leads directly to the New Town’s Wenceslas Square passing the Havelska Market. Have dinner at a café around the Market – Sleep near the Old Town Square.

**Day 9 – Friday, April 11, 2014** –Meet our guide by the astronomical Clock for a guided walk that will take in the Jewish Quarter, the historical buildings of the Old Town and the famous Charles Bridge. Have dinner at Espresso Kajetanka café - Sleep again in Prague.

**Day 10 – Saturday, April 12, 2014** – Back to the Jewish Quarter for in depth tour of the museum and cemetery. Meet our guide in the afternoon for a tour of Prague Castle ,St. Vitus Cathedral, the old Royal Palace, the Basilica of St. George and the Golden Lane – Check out Strahov Monastery and the Petrin Tower- Take in a concert that evening - Sleep again in Prague.

**Day 11 – Sunday, April 13, 2014 – everyone flies home -**