



trips for 18 to 30 somethings

## TRIP ITINERARY

# SPIRES IN THE SNOW 2010 - 2011

### 7 days, 4 countries City Highlights - Eastern Europe!

With the demise of Communism in Eastern Europe, a whole host of new destinations have opened up to travellers from around the world! Budapest, Prague and Krakow are cities steeped in history, dripping in romanticism, and with sights to rival any of the traditional European giants! With the services of our experienced Topdeck crew, travelling on a modern, European coach, and with a host of like-minded travelling companions, we're only sure of one thing – you'll be blown away by these 3 fabulous cities!

#### **DAY 1            BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

Our trip begins this evening in the twin cities of Buda and Pest, which sit either side of the mighty River Danube, and together are better known as the romantic capital of Hungary, Budapest! We meet our fellow passengers and Topdeck Crew and head out for an included meal in a local restaurant to sample the rich local cuisine. (D)

#### **DAY 2            BUDAPEST**

Today is a free day for us to explore this most amazing city! You could explore the Castle District, full of cobbled streets and underground catacombs, perhaps unwind in one of the famous thermal baths with a massage and beauty treatment, or learn about the darker side of Hungary's Communist past in the House of Terror museum. After a long day, why not unwind with a nice goulash at a local restaurant and a drink at one of the city's legendary 'dive' bars! (B)

#### **DAY 3            BUDAPEST TO KRAKOW, POLAND**

This morning we make our way north, driving through the country of Slovakia to Poland! The country was decimated in World War II but is now one of the most exciting and affordable destinations in Europe. The ancient town of Krakow miraculously escaped the worst of the War, and remains as the cultural heart of the country. The Old Town is a delightful step back in time to the glory days of the Middle Ages, whilst the great souvenir shopping shows just how well this charming city has blended the old and new so delicately. (B, D)

#### **DAY 4            KRAKOW**

A free day to wander through the intriguing, mysterious streets of Krakow! The Wawel Castle, Market Square and Cloth Hall are all eye-catching landmarks, and the latter has some of the best markets in the city nearby. We could perhaps head to the nearby Wieliczka Salt Mine, a 13<sup>th</sup> Century mine which now houses some incredible sculptures cut straight from the rock salt! This evening, we get the opportunity to find some delicious local cuisine, before perhaps enjoying a drink in one of the many cellar bars tucked away in the corners of this town! (B)

#### **DAY 5            KRAKOW TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC**

A sombre, but very important, start to the day as we visit Auschwitz concentration camp, where we will learn about the horrors of World War II and the Holocaust, and get the chance to pay our respects to those who lost their lives at the hands of the Nazi regime.

We then make our way to Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. A walking tour with our Topdeck Trip Leader takes in Gothic masterpieces such as the Hradcany Castle District, Charles Bridge, and the stunning Tyn Church. Tonight, why not take the opportunity to sample some of the best nightlife in Europe! (B, D)

#### **DAY 6            PRAGUE**

A free day to explore this beautiful city, hidden for decades behind the 'Iron Curtain' that divided East and West Europe, but now a hugely popular destination and a true gem of Eastern Europe. The Czech Republic also produces arguably the world's finest beer, giving us even more reason to celebrate the Prague nightlife! (B)

#### **DAY 7            PRAGUE**

Our trip finishes this morning after breakfast, when it will be time to say goodbye to our Topdeck Crew and travelling companions.

## IMPORTANT NOTES

- To be fully prepared, download the following documentation from [www.topdecktravel.co.uk](http://www.topdecktravel.co.uk) and go to the relevant Itinerary Page of your trip:
  - \* Pre-departure information
  - \* Optional Activities
- Luggage Allowance - 1 Backpack plus a day pack. Maximum weight of backpack must not exceed 20kgs. Size must not exceed 70cmx45cmx25cm. Due to the strict weight regulations for coaches in Europe, passengers whose luggage exceeds 20kgs will be asked to offload the excess on departure morning.
- This is a suggested itinerary and should be used as a guide only. The day to day itinerary may vary depending on the availability of sights and products. Admission fees are not included in the trip cost.
- Please check your visa requirements.
- This itinerary is only valid if you are travelling before 12 April 2011.