The Czech Republic Has It All!

- Rich in History and Stunning Architecture
  - Bustling, historic, capital city of Prague
  - Quieter towns such as Kutna Hora in Central Bohemia
  - Relaxing spa towns of Carlsbad, Marienbad and Franzensbad in Western Bohemia
  - Renaissance town of Cesky Krumlov in Southern Bohemia
  - Picturesque Moravian towns included in the UNESCO World Heritage list such as Olomouc and Telc

- Rare Natural Beauty/Soft or Hard Adventure Tours/Spa and Wellness
  - National Parks
  - Mountains
  - Rivers
  - Six areas included in UNESCO’s Global Biosphere Reserves
  - Hiking and mountain climbing
  - Bungee jumping
  - Balloon flightseeing
  - 40 towns dedicated to health and wellness

Czech Republic: The Right Match For Clients Looking For:

- **Castles, Palaces, and Other Historic Monuments:** The Czech Republic boasts over 2,000 preserved castles and chateaux.
- **World Heritage Sites:** The Czech Republic features no less than 12 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- **“Golden” Prague:** Prague is one of Europe’s most beautiful cities. Its 1,000 years of history exhibited in its architecture, palaces, churches and synagogues create a fairytale atmosphere.
- **Music:** Three opera houses in Prague, numerous, lavishly-decorated concert halls, excellent musical ensembles and world-renowned music festivals held throughout the country appeal to this special interest.
- **Rare Natural Beauty/Active Vacations:** Six areas of the Czech Republic have been included in the UNESCO list of global biosphere reserves.
- **Spa/Wellness Vacations:** Clients can relax in the splendid historical surroundings of famous Czech Spas.
- **Beer:** Discriminating fans of the brew will want to sample Czech beer, among the finest in the world, and find out why the Czechs are the number one beer drinkers in the world.
PRAGUE

With its rich cultural and historical inheritance, Prague has become one of the most visited cities in Europe. Prague’s rich collection of historical treasures includes Prague Castle, the symbol of Czech statehood, which was home to the kings of Bohemia, and is now the seat of the Czech president.

Prague’s architecture, ranging from the Gothic through Art Nouveau to Modernist gained Prague such nicknames as Golden Prague, the City of a Hundred Spires and the Mother of Cities. The historic center of Prague has been included in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

The main sightseeing areas of Prague are separated by the Vltava River. On the left bank there is the Prague Castle area and the Lesser Town. The right bank is home to the Old Town, the Jewish Quarter, and the New Town. Spanning the Vltava River and connecting the Old Town and Lesser Town is the beautiful Charles Bridge.

Prague Sightseeing Highlights

Prague Castle

Prague Castle, the most popular tourist attraction in the city, is the largest inhabited castle in the world and requires at least one full day for a comprehensive tour of the area. The vast number of touring options here includes the Picture Gallery, Imperial Stables, The Spanish Hall, Rudolf Gallery, St Vitus Cathedral, Old Royal Palace, Mihulka Powder Tower, Convent of St George, Basilica of St George, Royal Garden, Ball-Game House, Summer Palace, Riding School, Golden Lane, White Tower, Daliborka Tower, Lobkowicz Palace and the Toy Museum. Just walking distance from the Castle are: Schwarzenberg Palace, Archbishop’s Palace, Sternberg Palace, Cernín Palace, The Loreta and Strahov Monastery.

For more information, visit: www.hrad.cz

Prague Lesser Town

The Lesser Town. With its typical red roofs, was founded in 1257 on the slopes below Prague Castle. Among the top sites here are Nerudova Street; Lesser Town Square with St. Nicholas Church, one of the most valuable buildings of the “Prague Baroque Period”; St. Nicholas Church; Church of St Thomas; Vrtba Garden; Church of Our Lady Victorious with the famous statuette of Baby Jesus of Prague; Maltese Square; the romantic Kampa Island next to the Charles Bridge, the oldest and most visited bridge in Prague; and Petőfín Hill with the Petrin Watchtower, which is a miniature of the Eiffel Tower.

For more information, visit http://www.prague.cz/prague-lesser-town.asp

Prague Jewish Quarter (Josefov)

The Jewish Quarter contains the remains of Prague’s former Jewish ghetto. The Jewish town hall, six synagogues and a cemetery remain from the original town quarter. The Old Jewish Cemetery is Europe’s oldest and best preserved Jewish burial ground with about 12,000 gravestones. Top attractions here include the Pinkas Synagogue, Klausen Synagogue, Old-New Synagogue (the oldest functioning synagogue in Europe), High Synagogue, Jewish Town Hall, Maisel Synagogue and Spanish Synagogue.

For more information, visit www.jewishmuseum.cz
Prague Old Town

With origins dating back to the year 1091, the center of the Old Town is the Old Town Square, dominated by the Church of Our Lady of Týn and the Town Hall with its unique Astrological Clock, dating from the 15th century. The Old Town’s main sights include Powder Tower, Municipal House (one of the best examples of the Art Nouveau style in Prague), Estates Theatre (where Mozart personally conducted the premier of his opera Don Giovanni in 1787), Carolinum (Charles University building, established in 1348), Kinsky Palace, Jan Hus Monument on the Old Town Square, Church of St Nicholas, the House at Stone Bell (an exhibition and concert hall), Rudolfinum concert hall, and Convent of St. Agnes (housing a permanent exhibit of Medieval Art).

Prague New Town

The carefully planned New Town was founded by Charles IV in 1348. Twice as large as the Old Town, it was mainly inhabited by tradesmen and craftsmen. During the late 19th century its outer fortifications were demolished and redeveloped to its present modern appearance. Attractions here include Wenceslas Square, Church of Our Lady of the Snows, Franciscan Garden, National Museum, Prague State Opera, Charles Square, Church of St. Cyril and St. Methodius, Slavonic Monastery and the National Theatre.

Dining/Entertainment/Shopping

Apart from sightseeing, the cosmopolitan city of Prague offers its visitors a rich nightlife, theater, opera and music performances as well as a vast array of restaurants, bars and cafes. Shopping lovers can choose from variety of stores offering Czech products such as Czech glass or garnet jewelry.

BEYOND PRAGUE

There is more to the Czech Republic than Prague! Geographically, the Czech Republic (population: 10.3 million) and its historical lands (Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia) are divided into 14 tourist regions dotted with charming towns, castles and chateaux (the most per square mile of any country in the world!), ancient villages and, of course, the spa towns.

UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites

Historic Centre of Český Krumlov: Second only to Prague as a tourist destination, Cesky Krumlov retains its ancient image, dating back to the Middle Ages. The castle (housing the oldest Baroque theater in the world) from that period dominates the town, whose lanes are lined with carefully restored houses of burghers, many now home to cozy restaurants and smart shops.

Historic Center of Telč: The town of Telc stands on a hilltop surrounded by stone walls and a network of artificial ponds. While dating back to the 13th century, its castle was reconstructed in High Gothic style in the late 15th century. Telc’s central square, regarded among the most beautiful in the country, is surrounded by burgher houses with Renaissance gables and arcades.

Pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk at Zelená Hora: This pilgrimage church, built in honor of St John of Nepomuk, was constructed at the beginning of the 18th century on a spectacular five-point star-shaped plan. The church at Zelena Hora is the masterpiece of the architect Johann Blasius Santini-Aichel.

http://www.zdarns.cz
**Kutna Hora Historical Town Centre:** The second largest town (after Prague) in the Middle Ages, Kutná Hora owed its prosperity to silver mining. The Church of St. Barbara, a jewel of the late Gothic period, and the Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec, which was restored in line with the Baroque taste of the early 18th century, were to influence the architecture of central Europe. The unique All Saints cemetery chapel is also worth exploring, as it contains a crypt ossuary with decorations made exclusively from human skulls and bones.

**Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape:** Between the 17th and 20th centuries, the ruling dukes of Liechtenstein transformed their domains in southern Moravia into a striking landscape. It married Baroque architecture and the classical and neo-Gothic style of the castles of Lednice and Valtice with countryside fashioned according to English romantic principles of landscape architecture. It is one of the largest artificial landscapes in Europe.

**Gardens and Castle at Kromeriz:** Called the Athens of Moravia, the town of Kromeríz stands at the foot of the Chríby mountain range which dominates the central part of Moravia. The gardens and castle of Kromeríz are renowned as an exceptionally complete and well-preserved example of a European Baroque residence and gardens.

**Holasovice Historical Village Reservation:** The town of Holašovice has preserved a unique collection of authentic farmsteads in a style knows as ‘South Bohemian Folk Baroque’. Holasovice was first mentioned in written records going back as early as 1236.

**Litomysl Castle:** The dominant feature of the town of Litomysl is this monumental Renaissance castle dating from the years 1568 - 1581. On the elongated square, one of the largest in the Czech Republic, stands a town hall of Gothic origin and a series of Renaissance and baroque houses, many with arcades and vaulted ground floor rooms. Litomysl is also the birthplace of one of the best-known Czech composers, Bedřich Smetana, and the town stages an annual music festival “Smetana’s Litomysl” to commemorate him.

**Holy Trinity Column in Olomouc:** The ancient town of Olomouc lies in the heart of the Haná region, in Central Moravia. The town has the second most significant collection of historical monuments in the country after Prague. Olomouc is awash in Baroque architecture, attested to first of all by the Holy Trinity Column in its main square which is the largest of such plague or Marian columns in Central Europe.

**Tugendhat Villa in Brno:** Brno, the second largest city in the Czech Republic, is surrounded on three sides by wooded hills and opening to the Southern Moravian lowlands to the south of the city. The city was noted by UNESCO for The Tugendhat Villa, an outstanding example of the international style in the modern movement in architecture as it developed in Europe in the 1920s.

**Jewish Quarter and St Procopius’ Basilica in Třebíč:** With more than 120 houses, two synagogues and an ancient cemetery, the Trebic Ghetto is a unique collection of sites and the first independent Jewish relic beyond the territory of Israel to be added to the UNESCO list.

**NATURAL BEAUTY**

The Czech Republic borders Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Austria and nearly all of its borders with neighboring countries are formed by mountain ranges. The mountains of Šumava, Český les (Bohemian Forest), and the Krušné Mountains in the northwest stretch along the border with Germany. The border with Poland is formed by the Krkonoše Mountains. These mountains are far from being the only natural treasures of the country, however:

- Nature lovers flock to the area of Třeboň, a region of hundreds of smaller and larger ponds and to the areas along the Elbe and Vltava rivers.
- Your clients also will find a true natural paradise in the areas of several rock towns including
Český ráj (Bohemian Paradise), České Švýcarsko (Bohemian Switzerland), where you can check out what is said to be Europe’s largest rock bridge, Pravcice Gate) and the unique sand formations in Adršpašsko-Teplické Rocks. And, the hilly landscape of Bohemia has a contrasting counterpart in the fertile and level landscape of South Moravia with the Morava River.

- Six areas of the Czech Republic have been included in the UNESCO list of global biosphere reserves - Pálava, Křivoklát, Šumava, Třeboň, the Krkonoše and Bílé Karpaty (the White Carpathians).
- Among the Czech Republic’s many protected nature reserves, national natural heritage sites and natural reserves are the Šumava National Park (the largest national park in the Czech Republic), the Krkonoše National Park, the Bohemian Switzerland National Park, and the Podyjí National Park.

**SPA TOWNS**

Czech spas are well-respected; they have a longstanding tradition and illustrious history. Though hot springs have soothed jangled nerves and tired bodies since the Middle Ages, their heyday was in the 1800s, when most of the elegant buildings you see were built. Famous composers, writers and politicians came for the waters, including Goethe, Beethoven and Mark Twain, to mention only three. Today, expanded spa programs are offered by no fewer than 40 spa towns in the country. These towns are invariably located in picturesque natural landscapes and are attractive not only for their wide range of therapeutic, beauty and relaxation treatments but for their scenic locations, access to a wide range of sports activities (such as golf, cycling, hiking and walking and tennis) and rich cultural offerings such as music festivals and concerts. Czech spa towns boast beautiful, historic architecture and lush natural settings. The spa towns offer hotels and spa houses in all price ranges, from five-star deluxe to tourist-class. The most famous spa towns are Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), Mariánské Lazne (Marienbad) and Frantiskový Lazne (Franzensbad).

[http://www.czechspavacations.com](http://www.czechspavacations.com)
[http://www.karlovyvary.cz](http://www.karlovyvary.cz)
[http://www.franzensbad.cz](http://www.franzensbad.cz)

**ACTIVE VACATIONS**

The natural beauty of the Czech Republic, combined with its spa towns, provides a haven for clients interested in a combination of the relaxation of health, wellness and pampering spa treatments with active pursuits, in touch with nature - from the mountains to the romantic valleys and rivers. Your clients can hike or bike along the trails connecting historic towns and villages, visit many UNESCO sites, romantic castles, medieval churches and monasteries, old Jewish sites and some of the most picturesque countryside in Europe by exploring the Prague-Vienna Greenways. This is the first Central European greenway network of trails, stretching 250 miles between Prague and Vienna along the Vltava River in Southern Bohemia and the Dyje River in Southern Moravia. Those interested in horseback riding can combine this pursuit with a farm stay. The country’s many rivers and lakes provide a wide selection of sailing opportunities, water sports and fishing. Your adventurous clients also can go flightseeing by plane or balloon, go bungee jumping, even parachuting.

[http://www.pragueviennagreenways.org](http://www.pragueviennagreenways.org)

**Practical Matters**

For more information, click here