



*Educational  
Tours*



***Central European Treasures***  
**Don Carlson**



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## ***Central European Treasures***

A private tour designed by Don Carlson, in conjunction with EF Customized Tours

**Requested departure date: Saturday, March 5, 2016**

*(Dates below are subject to change. Required date flexibility of 2 days on either side of requested departure date)*

**Day 1**

**Saturday, March 5, 2016**

*Board your overnight flight to Berlin!*

**Day 2**

**Sunday, March 6, 2016**

### **Arrive in Berlin**

Arrive in historic Berlin, once again the German capital. For many years the city was defined by the wall that separated its residents. Since the monumental events that ended Communist rule in the East, Berlin has once again emerged as a treasure of arts and architecture with a vibrant heart.

### **Walking Tour of Berlin (time permitting)**

Stroll among the cafés, restaurants and embassies of the elegant, tree-lined Unter den Linden, sometimes known as the Champs-Élysées of Berlin. Your tour director shows you the city's most famous sites as you continue to the Reichstag, Germany's Parliament. The building, constructed in the late 19th century, was the seat of the Weimar Republic government until it was seized by the Nazis in 1933. Sir Norman Foster's glass dome, added to the top of the Reichstag between 1995 and 1999, is now one of the city's most recognizable landmarks, offering fantastic views of Berlin from its top.

*Overnight in Berlin*

**Day 3**

**Monday, March 7, 2016**

### **Guided Sightseeing of Berlin**

Ride past the Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche (left unrestored as a reminder of the ravages of war) and down the glittery Kurfürstendamm, Berlin's liveliest street. Pass the Rathaus Schöneberg, where 1,500,000 West Berliners flocked to hear President Kennedy's famous "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech in 1963. On your way to the Eastern sector, pass the Reichstag, former seat of the parliaments of the German Empire and the Weimar Republic. Arrive at the Brandenburg Gate, once the symbol of the undeclared Cold War, and now the symbol of a reunited Berlin. It was at this gate that the famous images of East and West Berliners dancing atop the crumbling Berlin Wall were filmed and broadcast around the world. As you see where the Berlin Wall actually stood, imagine the bleak watchtowers and piercing spotlights that guarded "the border" until November 1989. Journey down Unter den Linden, once considered one of the world's most elegant boulevards.

### **Visit the Checkpoint Charlie Museum**

On the site where Checkpoint Charlie once guarded the border between East and West Germany, you'll visit a museum devoted to the era of the Berlin Wall. Inspect the "escape cars" once used to cross the border. See if you can find the secret compartment where escapees hid. Then view a photo exhibit that evocatively portrays the 30-year separation of East and West Germany, reunified in 1989.

### **Visit the DDR Museum**

Take some time to explore this interactive museum. Here you will have a chance to see what it was like to live in East Berlin

*Overnight in Berlin*

**Day 4**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

### **Transfer to Prague via Dresden**

#### **Walking Tour of Dresden**

Pass the renovated Semper Opera House, Zwinger Palace, and a statue of Martin Luther. You'll also see the magnificent Grünes Gewölbe (Green Vault), where the Saxon crown jewels and priceless coins are kept. Dresden, largely destroyed at the end of World War II, offers a prime example of the rebuilt German success of the late 20th century.

#### **Arrive in Prague**

Encounter the legendary beauty of Prague, former capital of the Holy Roman Empire. Dubbed the City of One Hundred Spires, the city boasts an enchanting mix of diverse architecture, Bohemian culture, and storied history. Despite many recent changes, the undeniable charm of centuries past still permeates from the cobblestone streets and countless gothic spires piercing the skies.

*Overnight in Prague*

**Day 5**

**Wednesday, March 9, 2016**

#### **Guided Sightseeing of Prague**

Your tour begins at the celebrated Prague Castle (Hradcany). In the castle's courtyard, you'll visit the magnificent St. Vitus Cathedral, which took over 600 years to complete. On the nearby Golden Lane, royal alchemists once labored (unsuccessfully) to turn lead into gold. More recently, on the same street, Franz Kafka turned his angst into some of the century's finest fiction. You'll also stroll through the quaint, cobbled streets of the Mala Strana, the backdrop for Milos Forman's Amadeus. Cross the Charles Bridge, adorned with 30 beautiful baroque statues, to the 13th-century Old Town (Stare Mesto). Here you'll see Market Square, famous for its 15th-century astronomical clock. You'll also wander through Josefov, the traditional Jewish Quarter, home to the oldest synagogue in Europe (built in 1270).

#### **Transfer to Vienna**

Vienna has long played a central role in the changing face of Europe and has adapted many times to war, revolution, siege and the rise and fall of empire. The capital of Austria is also home to a strong music tradition as well as buildings of imposing elegance and beauty.

*Overnight in Vienna*

**Day 6**

**Thursday, March 10, 2016**

#### **Guided Sightseeing of Vienna**

The residence of the imperial court for six centuries, Vienna is marked with the seal of the Habsburgs, a family who once ruled over half of Europe. Your sightseeing tour takes you down the Ring, a series of wide boulevards commissioned by Emperor Franz Josef in 1857. Ride past the Parliament, the flower-adorned Rathaus (Town Hall), and the Hofburg, where the powerful Habsburg dynasty ruled until 1918.

### **Visit to Schönbrunn Palace**

Visit beautiful Schönbrunn Palace, where Marie-Antoinette spent her childhood. Here the six-year-old Mozart played for the empress inside the palace. After viewing the elegant interior, stroll through the palace's beautifully landscaped gardens to see the wonderful Neptune fountain, built in the late 18th century.

### **Visit the Sigmund Freud Museum**

In the former living quarters and office of Sigmund Freud in the house at Berggasse 19 in Vienna's ninth district, the Sigmund Freud Museum presents an exhibition documenting the life and work of the founder of psychoanalysis. Freud lived and worked in this house from 1891 until 1938, when he was forced by the National Socialists to flee with his family into exile in England.

### **Wiener Schnitzel Dinner**

Tonight, enjoy the authentic Austrian dish of wiener schnitzel, made with boneless meat thinned with a mallet (escalope-style preparation), coated in bread crumbs and fried.

*Overnight in Vienna*

**Day 7**

**Friday, March 11, 2016**

### **Transfer to Salzburg**

Welcome to Salzburg - famed for its alpine views, chocolate production, stylish architecture and being the setting for *The Sound of Music*. One of Austria's most charming and accessible cities awaits you.

### **Guided Sightseeing of Salzburg**

Begin your tour near the ornate gardens of the Schloss Mirabell before crossing to the west bank of the city. Here you will visit Mozart's birthplace before venturing into the heart of the city, much of which was designed during the 16th century by the Italian, Scamozzi. You will see the imposing and beautiful Domplatz as well as striking examples of Gothic churches, most notably the Franziskanerkirche.

### **Optional: Sound of Music Evening (\$115)**

Optional Sound of Music Evening. Join us at a centuries-old restaurant in the heart of Salzburg's Old Town for an evening of Austrian song and cuisine. Performers sing excerpts from *The Sound of Music* and musicians play Mozart as you dine on schnitzel and strudel, and view the illuminated churches in the distance.

*Overnight in Salzburg*

**Day 8**

**Saturday, March 12, 2016**

### **Transfer to Munich via Dachau Concentration Camp**

Once merely another sleepy German village, Dachau has since 1933 gained notoriety as Germany's first Nazi concentration camp. Today, the old administration building houses a museum documenting the rise of Hitler and the horrors of camp life. Commemorative chapels and memorials have also been built on the site, which stands as an eternal memorial to those who endured life here until liberation by Allied forces. Your visit today includes a guided tour of the site.

### **Arrive in Munich**

Welcome to Munich! This center of culture boasts over 45 museums, 10 university buildings and two opera houses. The city is also home to the Olympic center with full facilities and more than the occasional beer-hall.

### **Walking Tour of Munich**

Stroll through the very heart of Munich as you pass the twin copper domes of the Frauenkirche, a long-standing symbol of the city. Arrive at Marienplatz, once the intersection of medieval trade routes. Here you can see the neo-Gothic Rathaus and the golden Mariensäule, a monument commemorating Munich's divine salvation from rampaging Swedish hordes. Then continue past the Hofbrauhaus, Munich's most famous beer hall-on a good day, almost 30,000 liters of beer are sold here.

### **Dinner at a Traditional Bavarian Bräuhaus**

*Overnight in Munich*

**Day 9**

**Sunday, March 13, 2016**

### **Guided Sightseeing of Munich**

Your guided tour takes you past the Olympic Stadium, the headquarters of BMW, and the fashionable Schwabing district. You'll also pass the Residenz (once home to the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria), the Deutsches Museum, the university, and the Alte Pinakothek. Your tour concludes at Marienplatz, Munich's medieval heart, where you'll see the city's famed Glockenspiel. "Munich" derives from the city's German name, München (little monk), so named because the original settlement bordered a monastery.

### **Visit to Neuschwanstein**

Visit "Mad" King Ludwig's fairy-tale castle of Neuschwanstein, the real-life model for the Disney World castles. Ponder the young king's mysterious death as you learn the story of one of Europe's most eccentric rulers. King Ludwig so preferred dreams over reality that his servants could address him only from behind a screen. In fact, the original plans for the castle were drawn up by a theater set designer, not an architect.

*Overnight in Munich*

**Day 10**

**Monday, March 14, 2016**

### **Transfer to Heidelberg**

Arrive in Heidelberg, one of Germany's most beautiful towns, standing proudly on the River Neckar. While its castle dominates the skyline, the town also has wonderful shopping and a vibrant nightlife due to its large university population.

### **Walking Tour of Heidelberg**

Become acquainted with Germany's oldest university city (the university dates back to 1386). See Heidelberg's 700-year-old Schloß (palace) and its famous Faß (wine barrel), the world's largest. From the castle's rose-colored walls and historic battlements, enjoy a stunning view of the Neckar Valley, where Homo heidelbergensis roamed 500,000 years ago. You'll also see the town's medieval streets and Marktplatz, where witches were once burned at the stake. Writers as diverse as Mark Twain (who once floated down the Neckar on a raft) and Goethe (who was inspired by the view from the Schloß) have long praised Heidelberg's enduring beauty.

### **Visit Heidelberg Castle & Wine Barrel**

*Overnight in Heidelberg*

**Day 11**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2016**

**Travel through the Rhine Valley**

**Stop in Rudesheim**

**Walking tour of Rudesheim**

**Stop in Koblenz**

**Walking Tour of Koblenz**

Join your tour director for an introduction to the rich, cultural atmosphere of Koblenz, a city that marks the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers. See the majestic statue of Emperor Kaiser Wilhelm I as you continue through the Deutsches Eck (German Corner), named for the knights who settled the area in the 13th century. Pass by Mutter-Beethoven-Haus, the birthplace of the mother of the famous German-born composer Ludwig van Beethoven. Continue through the Old Town of Koblenz, where you'll wind down narrow streets filled with street performers, interesting shops and inviting sidewalk cafés.

**Arrive in Cologne**

Welcome to Germany's fourth largest city, known for its famous Cologne Cathedral, as well as the University of Cologne, one of Europe's oldest and largest universities.

*Overnight in Cologne*

**Day 12**

**Wednesday, March 16, 2016**

**Guided Sightseeing of Cologne**

Cologne may be one of Germany's largest cities, and full of modern culture, but it is also a 2,000-year-old city founded by ancient Romans. Visit one of Germany's most moving symbols: Cologne's sublime, war-scarred Gothic cathedral (the Kolner Dom). Within the cathedral is a medieval shrine to the Three Wise Men.

**Visit the Cologne Cathedral**

**Free Time in Cologne**

Enjoy this afternoon to explore Cologne on your own.

*Overnight in Cologne*

**Day 13**

**Thursday, March 17, 2016**

**Transfer to Brussels**

**Tour director-led sightseeing of Brussels**

Brussels has come to be known as the unofficial capital of Europe—not only is it the first city of Belgium, but it also serves as the headquarters for NATO and the European Union. Pass the EU buildings as you head into the heart of medieval Brussels. Here you'll see the Guild Houses lining the Grand'Place, "the most beautiful square in the world," according to Victor Hugo (who lived here after being exiled from France). You'll also stroll past Brussels' oldest citizen, the Manneken Pis—ask about the legends surrounding the statue. In addition, you'll view the Atomium; Brussels' lasting exhibit for the 1958 World's Fair represents an iron molecule magnified 200 billion times.

### **Participate in a Chocolate Factory Workshop**

Get a hands on introduction to the artistry behind belgian chocolate making After a tour of the factory, participate in a workshop where you will have the opportunity to don an apron and try your hand at making genuine truffles and pralines, and of course you will have a chance to sample the delicious chocolate as well

*Overnight in Brussels*

**Day 14**

**Friday, March 18, 2016**

### **Excursion to Bruges**

Traverse the Belgian countryside to the picture-perfect town of Bruges, one of Europe's most timeless and beautiful towns . The canal-lined streets are trafficked by both bicycles and horse-drawn carriages Note the well-preserved medieval character of the town in its brick facades, steep gables, and Gothic town hall Walk along the Lake of Love, visit an age-old béguinage, and see the only Michelangelo to have left Italy before the artist's death.

### **Visit the Historium**

### **Free time in Bruges**

Enjoy the rest of the afternoon to discover the charming city of Bruges on your own!

*Overnight in Brussels*

**Day 15**

**Saturday, March 19, 2016**

### **Transfer to Amsterdam**

Travel through irrigated Dutch landscapes as you make your way to Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands Known both as a center of entertainment and as a city of classic design and architecture, Amsterdam is a city of astonishing contrast.

### **Walking tour of Amsterdam**

Stroll along the canal-lined streets of Amsterdam on an EF walking tour Start at the Dam Square where you will see the Koninklijk Paleis (Royal Palace) and the Nieuwe Kerk (New Church), site of Dutch coronations. The square is also home to the Dutch war memorial. Continuing on, along some of the city's elegant canals, you will see Spui with its statue of a little boy as well as learning why some of the houses seem to stand at a precarious angle!

### **Canal Cruise**

Cruise the canals on board a glass-topped boat, the perfect way to become acquainted with the city. You will pass some of Amsterdam's most enchanting bridges, including those depicted in some of van Gogh's paintings

*Overnight in Amsterdam*

**Day 16**

**Sunday, March 20, 2016**

### **Guided Sightseeing of Amsterdam**

A local guide introduces you to Amsterdam's most famous sights on a walk through the city Pass the Westerkerk (West Church), where the remains of Rembrandt and his son are buried The church also held the wedding of Queen Beatrix in 1966 Continue to lively Dam Square, a dam around the Amstel River

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created in the 13th century to prevent the Zuiderzee Sea from flooding the city. Now this bustling tourist area boasts the impressive Koninklijk Paleis (Royal Palace), once the home of the Dutch Royal Family; the National Monument; and the Nieuwekerk (New Church), where members of the Dutch Royal Family are officially inaugurated. See the Begijnhof, a lovely 14th-century courtyard, built as a sanctuary for the Begijnhofites, a Catholic sisterhood. Walk across the lifting bridge to Waterlooplein. Marvel at the views of the Amstel River as you cross the Magere Brug (Skinny Bridge). Although "magere" means skinny in Dutch and the bridge was quite thin when built, rumor says the bridge was actually named for the Magere sisters, living on opposite sides of the river, who built the bridge to make it easier to visit each other. Finally, you will see Rembrandtplein, a square packed with terrace cafés, diamond shops, nightclubs and hotels.

### **Visit the Anne Frank House**

Visit the Anne Frank House, where the young girl hid with her family from 1942 to 1944-and where she penned the poignant diary that has been translated into dozens of languages worldwide.

### **Optional: Excursion to Volendam & Zaanse Schans (\$55)**

Today, enjoy an optional half-day excursion to the heart of the Dutch countryside. Visit the picturesque fishing village of Volendam and the living and working neighborhood of Zaanse Schans, re-created to look like an old Dutch village. Make your way down the winding, cobblestone streets, past windmills, charming shops and crooked houses. Enjoy demonstrations on cheese and clog making.

### *Overnight in Amsterdam*

**Day 17**

**Monday, March 21, 2016**

### **Transfer to the airport for your return flight**

Your tour director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you will check in for your return flight home.

*Itinerary is subject to change*

**For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at [www.eftours.ca/bc](http://www.eftours.ca/bc).**





**Educational  
Tours**

## **Tour Highlights and Details**

### **Overnight stays:**

Berlin	(2)	Heidelberg	(1)
Prague	(1)	Cologne	(2)
Vienna	(2)	Brussels	(2)
Salzburg	(1)	Amsterdam	(2)
Munich	(2)		

### **Sightseeing tours led by an expert, licensed local guide of the following:**

Guided Sightseeing of Berlin	Guided Sightseeing of Munich
Guided Sightseeing of Prague	Guided Sightseeing of Cologne
Guided sightseeing of Vienna	Guided Sightseeing of Amsterdam
Guided Sightseeing of Salzburg	

### **Entrances included to the following sites:**

Visit the Checkpoint Charlie Museum	Heidelberg Castle/Wine Barrel
Visit the DDR Museum	Visit the Cologne Cathedral
Visit the Schönbrunn Palace	Participate in a Chocolate Factory Workshop
Visit the Sigmund Freud Museum	Visit the Historium
Visit Mozart's Birthplace	Canal Cruise
Excursion to Dachau	Visit the Anne Frank House
Visit to Neuschwanstein	

### **Optional Excursions:**

- OP Sound of Music Evening (pre-book only)»
- OP Volendam & Zaanse Schans »

Optional excursion prices are based on 20 paying participants and may be purchased until 70 days prior to departure or on tour at an increased price. The prices of optional excursions are subject to change.

### **Included in the Program Fee:**

- Round trip airfare
- Transfers to and from the airport and hotel and between destination cities (as per program itinerary)
- Overnight in hotels with private bathrooms
- Continental breakfast daily
- Dinner daily
- Full-time services of an EF Tour Director

### **Not included in the Program Fee:**

- Customary gratuities for your tour director, local guide and driver
- Porterage
- Personal Insurance
- Beverages and lunches
- Public transportation to free time activities