



BUDAPEST | VIENNA | PRAGUE | BERLIN

# EUROPEAN CAPITALS

SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 9, 2018

PRESENTED TO THE STAFF OF MAYO CLINIC ROCHESTER, SCOTTSDALE, JACKSONVILLE & MAYO HEALTH SYSTEMS





# ITINERARY

## DAY 1: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Board your overnight flight to Europe.

## DEPART USA

## DAY 2: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

On arrival at Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport, transfer to your hotel. Meet your tour director and fellow Mayo Clinic travel companions for a drink before dinner. Tonight you are in for a treat with your welcome dinner at Gundel, one of Budapest's most renowned restaurants for over a hundred years. Dine in elegance as you savor hearty, Hungarian delicacies accompanied with specially-selected Hungarian wine. (D)

## BUDAPEST

## DAY 3: MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

Drive along the elegant boulevards en route to Heroes' Square. Walk with a local expert along the medieval cobblestone streets of the Castle District to visit Matthias Church and admire sweeping views from the Fisherman's Bastion over the exquisite Parliament Building. Make your way to a traditional Strudel House to see pastry chefs at work, as they prepare delicious sweet strudel by stretching the dough and readying fillings. Enjoy a delectable taste of this famous delicacy paired with a rich aromatic coffee. This evening, discover this fairytale city on a private cruise on the Danube with a glass of fine Hungarian wine in hand. See Margaret Island, the Houses of Parliament, Castle Hill with its Fisherman's Bastion, the Royal Palace, the Citadel and the University. While cruising, enjoy a lavish, gourmet buffet meal of Hungarian specialties and unlimited drinks. (B, D)

## BUDAPEST

## DAY 4: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Travel past the remains of the Roman settlement of Aquincum and along the Danube to the picturesque riverside village of Szentendre. This community has long been the haunt of artists, enchanted by its brightly-colored houses and quaint churches.

## VIENNA

Then, journey westward for a stop in the pretty town of Győr, located on the confluence of the Danube, Rába and Rábca rivers. Cross the border and continue to stately Vienna, known for its elegant coffee houses and lavish architecture steeped in history. This evening, choose from a selection of restaurants for your dine-around evening. (B, D)

## DAY 5: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Much of Vienna's present-day charm is due to the long reign of the Habsburgs. Join a local expert for a private visit of Maria Theresa's Schönbrunn Palace and its formal gardens. Then prepare your camera for a dazzling drive around the famous Ring Road. (B)

## VIENNA

## DAY 6: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

Once over the Czech border, continue to picturesque Český Krumlov, where you'll start with a brief orientation tour of the town - straight out of the Middle Ages. Enjoy some free time to explore and appreciate views of the Vltava River. Wander through the cobblestone, traffic-free streets, past colorful houses that lead up to the finest castle in the land. In the afternoon, continue through the green Bohemian countryside to Prague. (B, D)

## ČESKÝ KRUMLOV/PRAGUE

## DAY 7: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

Join a local expert for a guided visit to one of Europe's most beautiful and historic cities. Start with the 1,000-year-old Prague Castle, where you can admire the stained glass of St. Vitus Cathedral and spectacular views over the Old Town. Finish in the Old Town Square, where the mechanical antics of the Astronomical Clock's glockenspiel delight onlookers each hour. Later, discover on foot the hidden world of Prague's Mala Strana district accompanied by our expert local guide. Continue over the famous Charles Bridge. (B)

## PRAGUE







**DAY 8: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6**

**PRAGUE**

Wind along cobbled lanes and discover a treasure-trove of hidden gems, as you explore Prague at your own pace. Tonight, enjoy a traditional Czech meal accompanied by the planet's most perfect pilsner. During dinner, lively musicians in traditional dress set the mood with songs and dances from Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia. (B, D)

**DAY 9: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7**

**DRESDEN/BERLIN**

Journey north to Dresden. See the reconstructed Frauenkirche and walk past the colossal 'Procession of the Dukes' on the wall of the Royal Palace. Venture around the Catholic cathedral to view the tiered facades of the opera house, Semperoper, and the Baroque Zwinger Palace. After free time for lunch, continue to the vibrant capital city of Berlin. (B)

**DAY 10: MONDAY, OCTOBER 8**

**BERLIN**

Prepare to embrace the rejuvenated spirit of Berlin. Join a local expert for a drive along the Ku'Damm, past the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. Continue through the leafy Tiergarten to the refurbished Reichstag building and see the Brandenburg Gate. On the eastern side, take the Unter den Linden past the State Opera House to Alexanderplatz. In the afternoon, visit the Soviet War Memorial in Trepow Park before continuing to the East Side Gallery, the largest stretch of the former Berlin Wall. Afterwards, we'll enter the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, documenting nearly 30 years of dramatic escape attempts across the "Iron Curtain." Tonight, enjoy a celebration dinner with your fellow Mayo Clinic travelers and share fun stories from your journey. (B, D)

**DAY 11: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9**

**RETURN HOME**

Bid a final farewell and transfer to the airport for our return flight home. (B)



