

# Imperial Treasures!

Budapest, Vienna and Prague  
with ETV Endowment of South Carolina



Prague on the Vltava

## Join ETV Endowment for an exciting trip to three beautiful capitals of art and culture in Central Europe this fall!

Budapest, Vienna and Prague were linked for centuries by the Habsburg dynasty. The succession of rulers provided a cultural milieu where the nurturing of artists established important traditions that endure to this day.

We begin in the fascinating city of Budapest, its two sections straddling the Danube, connected by a series of impressive bridges. With the city's attractive mix of eclectic architecture, café culture, thermal baths and burgeoning nightlife, you will spend three nights in the 5-star Verno House Hotel, located in a lovely neighborhood close to the majestic Parliament building.

Moving on to Vienna for four nights, we'll stroll the historic center, view the rich treasure chamber of the Habsburgs, as well as their beautiful summer residence, the sumptuous Schönbrunn Palace, view Gustav Klimt's iconic paintings and travel to the wine-growing region of the Wachau.

In Prague, from the charming Old Town to the Castle District above it, the historic Jewish Quarter to the lovely and quiet "Little Quarter" where our hotel is located, one of Europe's most beautiful cities awaits you.

We will explore these three great cities with style: deluxe 5-star hotels, fine dining, delightful cafés, expert guides, private experiences exclusive to our group and plenty of free time. Best of all, you and your fellow travelers will be guided by one of ETV's favorite people, the estimable Alasdair Clayre of The Grand Tour. The tour is limited to only 25 participants, so make your plans early and sign up soon. You won't want to miss this wonderful trip!

Gustav Klimt's, *The Kiss*

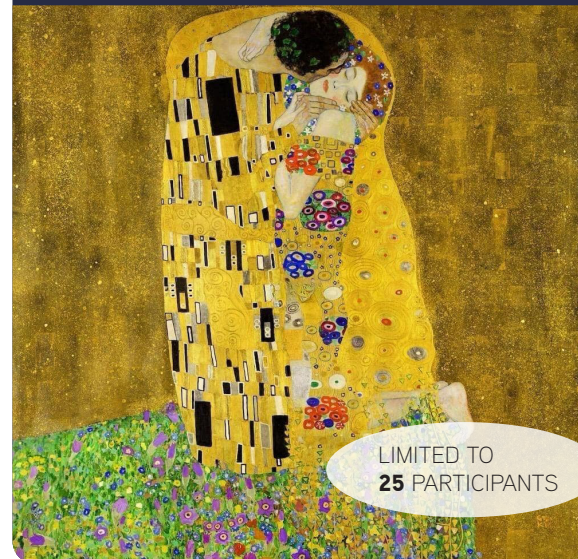
**September 17 – 28, 2025\***

*\*Tour begins September 18 in Budapest*



### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- \$1,200 tax-deductible contribution to the ETV Endowment
- Deluxe 5-star accommodations in all three cities
- Welcome reception on a Danube cruise in Budapest
- Private tours of principal sites in all three cities with expert guides, including walks in the ancient town centers, the vaunted Terror Museum in the old headquarters of the Stasi in Budapest, the Habsburg Treasure Chamber, Melk Abbey, Prague's fascinating Jewish Quarter and many more
- Fine dining in some of the region's best restaurants
- Exclusive wine tastings in Budapest, the Wachau region and Prague
- Ferry ride on one of the loveliest parts of the Danube
- Private motorcoach transportation for most all activities on the itinerary
- Private airport-hotel transfers
- Plenty of free time for additional sight-seeing, shopping or relaxing



LIMITED TO  
25 PARTICIPANTS



# Itinerary

Budapest Castle

## Wednesday, September 17

Flights from the US, with arrival the following day

## Thursday, September 18

### Budapest

After check-in at the Verno House Hotel, the tour begins with a lovely, private **welcome reception** on the Danube. The cruise precedes a gala **welcome dinner** near the river.

## Friday, September 19

### Budapest

**Breakfast daily** at all three hotels. The Buda hills rise above the river and enclose the oldest part of the city extant. After a short visit to the city's largest food market, we climb these hills passing through a complex of gardens, arcades and staircases near the National Gallery—the former Royal Palace—on one end. We stroll the quiet streets toward St. Matthias Church at the other and have a nice **lunch**. The distinctive Gellert Baths, one of the best in the city, makes an ideal location to try one of Budapest's favorite pastimes during your free time.

## Saturday, September 20

### Budapest

Today we explore the other side of the river, Pest, dominated by the majestic spires of Parliament, Heroes' Square, the spectacular Hungarian State Opera, the city's main synagogue, the Dohany, the Central Market, the so-called "Terror Museum"—formerly the headquarters of the Stasi—and many more highlights. Lunch is on your own, but we will also find time for a break at one of Budapest's characteristic cafés. **Dinner** replete with authentic Hungarian gypsy band and a tasting of Tokaj, one of the finest dessert wines in the world, makes a fitting farewell to the city.

## Sunday, September 21

### Vienna

Bidding farewell to Budapest, our private coach takes us into the countryside for a farewell **lunch** in the town of Győr in Hungary before we cross the border into Austria. Check-in is at the 5-star Grand Hotel Vienna, ideally located on the city's iconic Ringstrasse. Our private guide will take us on an introductory walk in the city's historic center, the Innere Stadt, before a sweet break for a traditional Viennese pastry and coffee. Evening free.

## Monday, September 22

### Vienna

Around the city's ring road, we view several landmarks of the *Jugendstil*, Vienna's iconic Art Nouveau movement, stopping off for a look at the amazingly quirky Hundertwasser House. Then we travel out to the sumptuous 18th-century palace and gardens of Schönbrunn, the Habsburg summer residence for a tour and **lunch**. Then, we'll stop off at the Upper Belvedere to view "The Kiss" and other paintings by one of the great painters of the late 19th century, Gustav Klimt.

## Tuesday, September 23

### Vienna

No visit to Vienna would be complete without a day along the Danube, and our excursion will take us up the river to the great Abbey of Melk, where Mozart once played the organ, followed by **lunch** and a private tasting of fine Wachau wines. A ferry ride on the Danube gets us most of the way back to the city. Evening free.

## Wednesday, September 24

### Vienna

The morning begins with an option to take in the renowned Lipizzaner horses at the Spanish Riding School in their morning training. In the Hofburg Palace, headquarters of the Habsburg Dynasty, the Treasure Chamber reveals like nothing else how the dynasty underpinned its rule through lavish display to its subjects. Your afternoon is free to see more of Vienna on your own, before **dinner** at one of Vienna's finest restaurants.



top: Abbey of Melk  
below: Old Jewish cemetery, Prague

**Thursday, September 25**

## Prague

Today we bid *auf Wiedersehen* to Vienna and transfer by private motorcoach to one of Europe's most beautiful cities, Prague. On the way we'll stop for **lunch** in the border town of Velke Mezerici. Upon arrival in Prague's charming and quiet Malá Strana (Little Quarter), we check in to the Hotel Alchemist. We begin our exploration of the great city with a private visit to the Strahov Monastery, founded in 1143, with views overlooking the city and a superb Baroque library.

**Friday, September 26**

## Prague

We ascend Prague's Castle Hill to visit the Royal Palace and the cathedral of St. Vitus, before descending through some lovely gardens, which hug the side of the hill. Passing through the Old Town Square to watch the extraordinary astronomical clock, we take a walking tour of the unique Jewish Quarter. A visit to the Old Jewish Cemetery, a veritable tumble of centuries-old tombstones, is a must in Prague. Then we travel just outside the city for a **lunch** and wine tasting at a celebrated vineyard with an expert sommelier. Evening free.

**Saturday, September 27**

## Prague

A free day to explore the city on your own. A tour of the World War II concentration camp at Terezin we present as an option. Our **Farewell Dinner** takes place at one of Prague's finest restaurants near the river Vltava (aka the Moldau).

**Sunday, September 28**

Tour ends after breakfast. Flights back to the US, returning the same day.

*Itinerary subject to change. Meals in **bold** included in the price of the tour.*



Buda Castle, Budapest



Habsburg Imperial Treasury

## Tour Registration

**Tour Cost: \$7,999 per person, ground only, based on double occupancy.**

**Single supplement: \$1,365**

**Deposit: \$1,200 per person**, due upon registration, first come, first served.

**Registration Deadline: Wednesday, July 2, 2025.**

After that date, call for availability.

**Tour limited to 25 participants.**

**To reserve your place**, send registration form with check or credit card information for the deposit amount to: ETV Endowment Imperial Treasures Tour, 401 E. Kennedy Street, Suite B-1, Spartanburg, SC 29302.

**Please note:** There is moderate to active walking on the tour, sometimes over varied, uneven or slippery terrain and up and down ancient steps. You should feel comfortable participating in full days of activities.

**Questions?** Contact Amy Raffo at ETV Endowment at 864-591-0046 or [araffo@etvendowment.org](mailto:araffo@etvendowment.org).

The Imperial Treasures tour is an exclusive presentation by ETV Endowment of South Carolina and is organized by The Grand Tour Travel Company, Peterborough, New Hampshire.



Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna