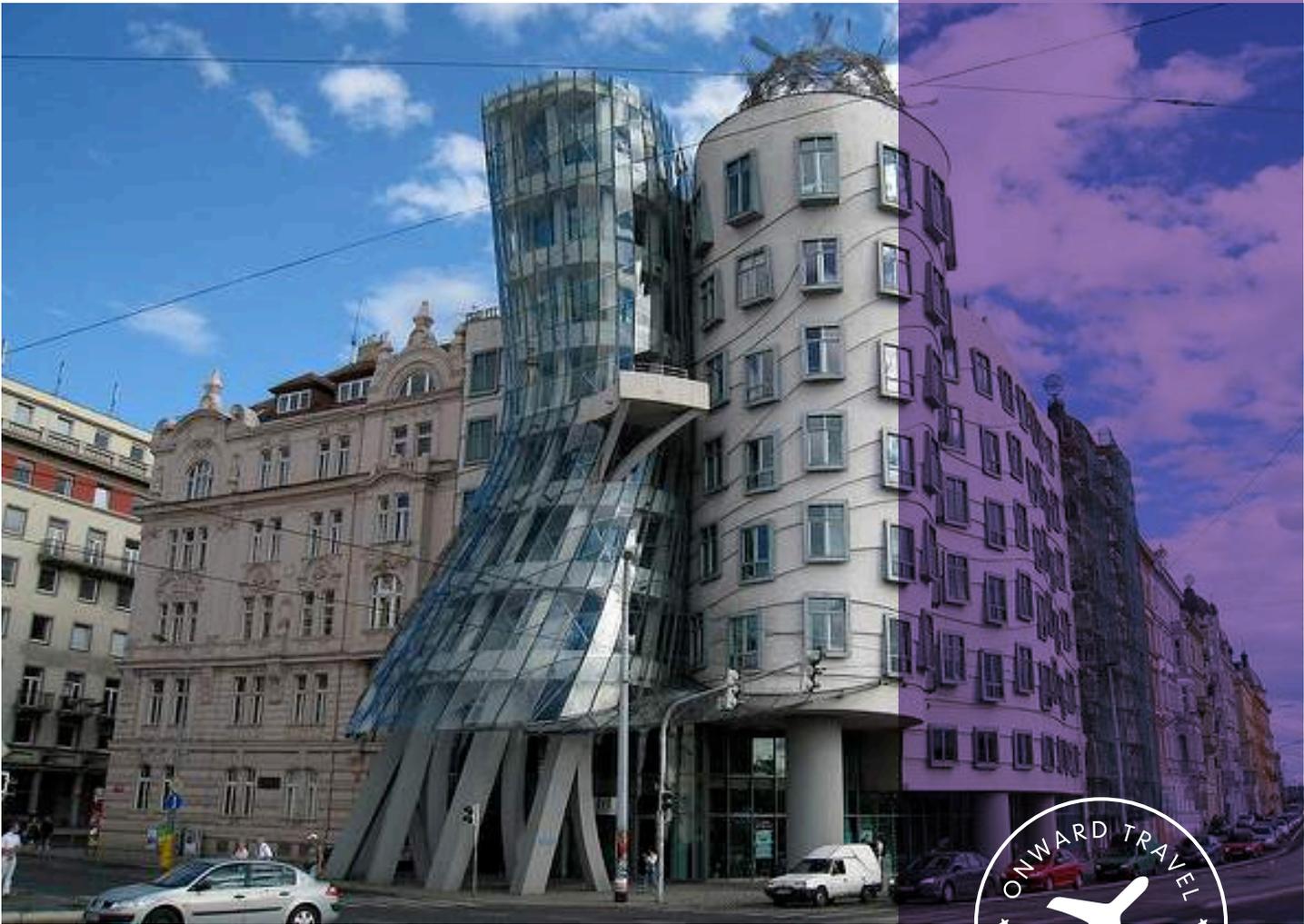


A Cultural Adventure in Beautiful Bohemia
June 17—24, 2018
Hosted by Onward Travel

Czech Magic

ONWARD TRAVEL ✈️

EST 2014



The Dancing House, a very special building in the center of Prague

Last summer, Onward Travel co-founder, Kat, moved to Prague with her husband and their dog. She is delighted in June 2017 to welcome a small group of Onward Travelers to her new home city for a very special look at life, culture, gastronomy and art in the Bohemian heart of Central Europe.

The political and cultural capital city of the Czech Republic, Prague, is widely considered to be one of the most beautiful destinations in Europe. With the sparkling Vltava River snaking through her turrets and castles, orange roofs and hilltop parks, it's a city that easily casts a spell on her lucky visitors and leaves a lasting, enchanting impression. We'll embrace the romance, the culture, the jawdropping architectural embellishments, the hearty cuisine and the friendly-once-you-get-to-know-them locals.

Our tour begins with two nights exploring the cobblestone alleyways, artistic inclinations and fairytale atmosphere of the picturesque UNESCO World Heritage designated town of Český Krumlov. Then the group will spend 5 nights in Prague... expect fine dining experiences and the best local cuisine, in-depth historical experiences and a focus on the enduring appreciation for performing, visual and literary arts that make Czech culture so special. And we'll even take Ike the dog on the tram (because we can)... You'll agree that summer in the Czech Republic is pure magic!



Imagine yourself...

Getting dressed up for the opera in a grand Baroque theater.

Visiting the original "Budweiser" and tasting perfect Czech beer.

Wandering small town streets out of a fairytale.

Welcome to Czech Republic!

DAY 1: SUNDAY JUNE 17

- Walk the halls and learn about life in a Renaissance manor house
- Arrive at a hotel in the heart of one of the most beautiful towns in Central Europe, Český Krumlov

When you arrive at Vaclav Havel International Airport this morning Kat will be waiting to meet you there with comfortable private transportation and a professional driver as well as a gourmet packed lunch. We'll hit the road and head a couple hours south to one of the most picturesque towns in this beautiful country, the UNESCO World Heritage designated village of Český Krumlov.

En route to the south we'll stop for a guided tour at Zámek Kratochvíle, a stunning Renaissance manor house nestled in the Bohemian countryside. We'll learn about what life was like for the 16th century inhabitants of this magnificent dwelling, and take some time to wander in its fabulous gardens.

Upon arrival in Český Krumlov we'll check in to our hotel in the pedestrian center, where tiny cobblestone lanes criss-cross one another and modern life fades away. Take the rest of the afternoon to relax, go for a stroll, or find your first half liter pour of deliciously crisp and fresh Czech beer.

This evening we'll gather together for a real Czech feast - the local cuisine is hearty and delicious... think roasted pork and beef, fresh river fish, bread and potato dumplings, potato pancakes, rich gravies, flavorful cabbage and fresh salads. Czechs also really know how to bake a cake! We'll raise our glasses of beer, or excellent Moravian wine, or the ubiquitous homemade lemonade, with a cheerful *Na'zdravi* (to your health!) and toast to the week ahead.

Meals Lunch, Dinner

Life in a Fairytale

DAY 2: MONDAY JUNE 18

- Visit the 13th century Baroque castle dominating the "skyline"
- Don Art Nouveau style and pose for photos with your travel buddies

We'll begin this morning with a walking tour of Český Krumlov, accompanied by a friendly local guide. Together we'll visit the town's 13th century Baroque castle, a designated national heritage site, as well as other historical points of interest, all delightfully interpreted for us by our guide. Then we'll sit down for lunch together at a local cafe.

After lunch a real treat is in store; a visit to one of the hidden gems of the Bohemian Forest region: Museum Fotoatelier Seidel. Contained in the well-preserved Art Nouveau home of its namesake, this museum documents the work and life of Josef Seidel, a 19th century pioneer in the photographic arts, and in so doing offers a unique look at life in the Czech-German-Austrian border region at the turn of the 19th century. Following our private tour we'll find ourselves in the photo studio, reserved just for us. Let's don some period costumes, have a little fun, and make some unforgettable photos. Those who would prefer to watch, or set out on their own in Český Krumlov, may of course do just that...

You'll have the rest of the afternoon and evening to explore the cobblestone lanes and soak in the ambiance of this charming town. Perhaps a visit to the National Marionette Museum to learn about the beloved art form, or the Egon Schiele Museum to see the work of the Austrian Expressionist whose mother was born here in Český Krumlov. Of course, shopping and beer are easy to come across, too!

Meals Breakfast, Lunch



Looking out from its castle at the UNESCO World Heritage village of Český Krumlov

Hrady a Pivo

DAY 3: TUESDAY JUNE 19

- Taste perfect beer in the brewery's medieval cellar
- Enjoy a drive through a breathtaking UNESCO biosphere reserve

Mid-morning we'll bid farewell to Český Krumlov and make our way north to Prague. But we have a full day head of us before we reach the capital and our planned activities are about as Czech as it gets: a castle (*hrad*) and some beer (*pivo*). These are two of the first vocabulary words anyone who visits the country learns, and for good reason.

First, we will visit the stunning Hluboka Castle, pictured on the cover page of this itinerary. A castle has been on this site since the 13th century, but it was rebuilt in its current Romantic style in the 1800's. After a private guided tour of the luxurious staterooms we'll enjoy a picnic lunch together in the gardens.

After lunch we will visit Budvar Brewery - no relationship to the American brewing giant. Even if you aren't a beer drinker you'll be amazed at the centuries old brewing process here using water extracted from 300 meters below ground to produce a purely delicious lager beer. We'll even have the opportunity to taste the beer, as fresh as it gets, in the brewery's medieval cellars. The bottling line, moving over 2,000 bottles per minute, is a highlight of the tour and absolutely mesmerising to watch. We'll linger after our tour to enjoy a glass of beer in the on-site tavern.

From Budvar, we'll make a small detour to drive through the nearby countryside surrounding the medieval spa village of Třeboň. This marshy region has been worked by its inhabitants for centuries, and today the idyllic countryside is packed with over 6,000 small lakes, resulting in an absolutely dreamy atmosphere that is counted as a UNESCO biosphere reserve. We'll stop for a little afternoon free time in Třeboň where you can enjoy a coffee or a drink, or maybe just take a stroll.

Now we're really on our way to Prague, but since we're going to be driving right by one of the best restaurants in the country we have to stop for dinner. Restaurant Goldie, in the heart of the town of Tabor, has been gathering accolades left and right for its inventive farm-to-table take on traditional Czech cuisine, including a spot in the Top 10 Restaurants of 2017 in the country's top food publication.

When we get to Prague tonight we'll Czech in (sorry) at our home for the next five nights Design Hotel Jewel, a small, family-owned, boutique four star hotel in the heart of the city.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OnwardTravel.co Based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the Hudson Valley, New York

Intro to Praha

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY JUNE 20

- See the Czech capital through the eyes of a local guide
- Watch the sun set over Prague Castle from your dinner table

After breakfast we'll set out with a great local guide to get to know Prague. Of course we'll visit the city's "greatest hits" such as Old Town Square with the wonderful Astronomical Clock, Charles Bridge, and the castle complex that looms over the city from Letna Hill. But our guide will also take us off the beaten path and show us things that most tourists never see or notice. During the tour, we'll stop for lunch at the fabulous microbrewery restaurant at Strahov Monastery.

Mid-afternoon we'll return to Design Hotel Jewel where you can enjoy a few hours of downtime before dinner. Have a rest or a wander, do a little shopping (the hotel is in a great location for shopping), or keep practicing your Czech beer drinking skills.

Early evening we'll reconvene for a drink at the hotel bar before we head out for dinner at one of the most exciting restaurants in the city, Ginger & Fred, located on the seventh floor of the iconic Dancing House building. The structure was designed and built in the 1990's by famous local architect Vlado Milunić and international superstar Frank Gehry. Gehry nicknamed the building Fred and Ginger, as in Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, because of the way it resembles two dancers. But it was the "Dancing House" that stuck for the building, and "Ginger & Fred" for the restaurant. We'll enjoy a delicious and artistic, fine-dining meal here tonight with gorgeous views of the Vltava River and the castle as the summer sun sets.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



The farm-to-table food at Goldie is as beautiful as it is delicious

All About Puppets

DAY 5: THURSDAY JUNE 21

- Learn about the art of puppetry and make your own puppet
- Laugh and toast over authentic Italian pizza and wines

There is a large and beautiful cemetery near Kat's apartment in Prague, and while walking there one day she came across the most fabulous and ornate crypt dedicated to a family of obvious high esteem, all of whom boasted the same profession. She pulled out her google-translate equipped phone to see what these people did, fully expecting bankers, merchants or maybe famous writers, but no, this was a family of puppeteers. This anecdote says a lot about how important this traditional art form is to local identity.

This morning we'll head to The National Marionette Theater for a puppet workshop. We'll learn how to operate the marionettes, get a backstage tour of the theater, and everyone will make their own puppet to take home with them. People travel from around the world for the week-long puppet making workshops at The National Marionette Theater, and this opportunity is a real treat.

After our workshop the afternoon is yours to spend as you wish. We'll meet for an early dinner at one of Kat's favorite spots, an Italian place right around the corner from the hotel. You'll love the authentic Neopolitan pizza and great Italian wines (Czech food is really very good, but a little break from it never hurt anybody). After dinner we're headed back to the National Marionette Theater to see some puppetmasters in action, performing their grand opus: *Don Giovanni*. The slapstick humor is perfect for puppets, and this opera was written and premiered in Prague by Mozart when he lived here.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

A Memorable Day Trip

DAY 6: FRIDAY JUNE 22

- Go deep down in to a Medieval silver mine below the town streets
- Marvel at an ornate cathedral decorated with human bones

Today we are going to visit a very interesting little town and another UNESCO World Heritage site about an hour east of Prague, Kutná Hora. In the 14th century, after silver mines were discovered here, the town was incredibly wealthy and considered the second-most important settlement in the country after the capital. During that time an amazing Gothic church was built here, The Cathedral of St. Barbara. With its soaring buttresses and medieval frescoes, the cathedral is a sight to behold.

A church named for St. Barbara, the patron saint of miners, is no coincidence in this silver mining town, and after we see the cathedral we'll visit the Silver Museum where we'll learn about the interesting history of silver mining here, and those who are up for it can descend underground to see what the mine was like 700 years ago.

Enjoy free time to explore this pretty little town and have some lunch. This afternoon we'll hop over to the nearby town of Sedlec, where a monastery has existed since the 12th century. Today, one of the most visited sites in the Czech Republic is located here: The Sedlec Ossuary, a small chapel ornately decorated with the bones of many thousands of people, mostly victims of the plague. While macabre, it is beautiful and certainly unforgettable. We'll arrive back in Prague late afternoon. Spend this evening in the city as you like.

Meals Breakfast

The Bohemian Opera & A Fond Farewell

DAYS 7 & 8: SATURDAY JUNE 23 & SUNDAY JUNE 24

- Raise a glass on Kat's balcony overlooking the city
- Get dressed up for opera in a simply gorgeous Baroque theater

Enjoy this Saturday in Prague however you want – visit the absolutely fabulous Kafka Museum or the must-see Mucha Museum, explore the state rooms of the castle or blend in with the locals at one of the city's fantastic Saturday farmers' markets.

Our last night in Prague will be spent the most appropriate way there is - at the opera! And Czechs dress for it... no need to pack an evening gown, but we'll have fun meeting up in our dressy attire this afternoon. Before the opera, we'll all go to Kat's apartment for a farewell cocktail party and dinner beginning in the late afternoon. Stand on the big balcony and look out across the gorgeous rooftops, and toast to your fellow travelers. Then we'll make our way to the absolutely gorgeous Baroque gem, the Karlín Music Theater, for the world-class opera rendition of Charles Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet*. The opera will be performed in the original French with Czech and English subtitles, and it's sure to be fabulous.

On Sunday, we'll schedule an included taxi transfer from the hotel to Vaclav Havel Airport or to the central train station if you wish to continue your European travels. "Na Shle!"

Meals June 23 Breakfast, Dinner

Meals June 24 Breakfast

TRIP INFORMATION czech magic

BEGINS	Vaclav Havel Airport, Prague, Czech Republic (PRG) Mid-morning on June 17, 2018
ENDS	Central Prague, with a transfer to the airport provided June 24, 2018
MOBILITY	The tour includes walking for 15-30 minutes at a time, plus stairs and cobblestones. In Prague we will take advantage of the city's wonderful public transportation system, including the tram and the subway. If you have limited mobility, we can accommodate you, but it is essential to let us know at the time of registration. Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.
TRIP LENGTH	8 days, 7 nights
TOUR DATES & PRICE	June 17–24, 2018 Double Occupancy \$2,800 per traveler Single Supplement \$225 additional Please note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to The Czech Republic. No visa is required for US citizens. Please ensure that your passport is valid at least three months past the dates of travel.

"The ancient splendor and beauty of Prague, a city beyond compare, left an impression on my imagination that will never fade." — Richard Wagner

AIR TRAVEL:

Air travel is not included in the trip price, but Onward Travel is happy to help you make arrangements.

Please select an itinerary landing at PRG Airport before 10 AM on 6/17. You may depart any time you like on 6/24.

In May American Airlines will begin direct, non-stop service between Philadelphia and Prague. At the time of writing that flight is \$890 roundtrip for our dates.

Please confirm with Onward Travel that the trip is a "go" before booking non-refundable airfare.

Trip price includes the following:

- Airport transfers and ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities.
- Five nights accommodations in the heart of Prague at Design Hotel Jewel and two nights accommodations in Český Krumlov at Hotel Konvice
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, four lunches, and five dinners. Expect fantastic gourmet experiences, wine and beer included, of course!
- Local guide services throughout the tour to truly understand The Czech Republic. Plus your Onward guide, Kat, at your service.
- Activities, museum visits, and tours as detailed in the itinerary.

Visit onwardtravel.co to complete the registration form and submit payment. \$1000 deposit due upon booking, balance due by April 1, 2018.

TRIP INFORMATION czech magic: june 17—24, 2018

About Onward Travel

Onward Travel is a boutique travel planning company that carefully crafts itineraries to create an authentic, engaging trip that exposes the destination and roots travelers to the place.

Onward was founded by two sisters, inspired by their family's cooking school on a farm in Bucks County, PA that has offered culinary-focused travel to customers for over two decades.

The Czech Republic in June

June in the Czech Republic is lovely. Summer has arrived and locals are all relaxing in the many parks and at the sidewalk cafes and beer gardens, soaking up the sun. The temperature ranges in June from the high 60's in the morning to the high 70's in the afternoon, and it's possible to reach the low 80's. At night the temperature will dip into the 50's, so plan to bring layers and as always, be prepared for possible rain. Onward Travel will provide packing notes in advance of the trip.

Miscellaneous Travel Information

- Passports are required for American citizens travelling to The Czech Republic. Visas are not required. Note your passport should be valid for at least three months beyond the date of travel.
- To determine the current exchange rate, Google "USD to CZK."
- Travel Protection: Onward Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. Travel protection plans include coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay and more. For more information on the recommended plans or to enroll, contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 32-0704. For a summary of plan details on benefits, coverages, limitations and exclusions, please refer to the applicable Description of Coverage. Travel Insurance is underwritten by

Get in Touch!

Contact Onward Travel with questions or special requests.

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