



## A SAMPLE ITINERARY

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Friendship Ambassadors Foundation

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### ***CENTRAL EUROPE – HUNGARY, AUSTRIA, SLOVAKIA & THE CZECH REPUBLIC***

#### **Day 1 - In Flight (D, B)**

Please arrive early for your international flight (please double check with Friendship Ambassadors for check-in times and requirements). Don't forget your passport and ticket! Try to get some rest on board. To minimize the effects of jet lag, we advise to avoid sugars, caffeine, salts and alcohol. Drink a lot of water to keep hydrated!



#### **Day 2 - Welcome to Budapest (B, D)**

Arrive in Budapest, Hungary where you will be met by bilingual Friendship Ambassadors representatives and transfer to your accommodations. Your local hosts will present a brief orientation. Attend an evening get together and a dinner party in honor of your group.

Budapest is really two cities, Buda and Pest, connected among others by the beautiful Chain Bridge. Pest is as flat as Kansas, and Buda is as hilly as San Francisco. Known as the Pearl of the Danube, this 1,000-year-old city is truly one of the world's most beautiful. It combines Modern, Neoclassical, Baroque, Art Nouveau and other architectural styles with the grandeur of the flowing Duna (or Danube), which goes through the city for 17 mi.

#### **Day 3 - Budapest (B, D)**

After breakfast, you will be escorted on a tour of this impressive cultural center. Your tour will include the Castle District of Buda, with its antiques stores, shops, pretty homes, taverns, museums (including an excellent music museum), restaurants and many of Budapest's prime attractions in a relatively compact area. Attractions on the Pest side include the National Museum, the glittering Opera House, the newly renovated Market Hall (a cavernous wrought-iron retail market) and the largest functioning synagogue in Europe – not to mention the Heroes Square, condensing 2000 years of history in about two dozen statues! A performance will be scheduled for this evening, followed by a reception.



#### **Day 4 - Budapest (B, L)**

Sightseeing options for morning free time include: the Liszt Museum, the Castle District in the Buda Hills, and the Matyas Templom (Matthias Church) – your guides will be happy to give you further

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suggestions. Take swimsuits to visit one of the spas (Turkish or other). Another concert will be scheduled this evening for your group.



### Day 5 - to Bratislava (B, D)

Travel from Budapest to Bratislava, capital of Slovakia. Your hosts will be the Slovak State Music Conservatory. You will arrive and be greeted by your hosts and have a group dinner this evening. Located at the point where the Carpathian Mountains meet the Danube River, the Slovak capital of Bratislava is very beautiful. Dominating the skyline of Slovakia's capital is Bratislava Castle, perched 200 ft up a hill. Our favorite sights, however, are the numerous copperdomed church spires interspersed throughout the city.

### Day 6 - Bratislava (B, L)

Meeting with members of the conservatory and a workshop can take place during the day or you will have time with a local church community. You will have an evening concert at the conservatory tonight.

### Day 7 – Day trip to Vienna/ (B, L)

Free day in Vienna. Your hosts at the conservatory will transport you to the Austrian capital (Bratislava's sister city) for a day full of fun, education and arts at their highest level. An early dinner is on your own before departure.

Vienna is divided into 23 districts (Bezirke), each with its own name reminiscent of the days when the districts were actually small towns or villages on the outskirts of the capital, gradually engulfed by the growing metropolis. The most important district, where the majority of Vienna's attractions and historic monuments are located, is the 1st District, the Innere Stadt. Much of it is closed to traffic and has been turned into a pedestrian zone. The "Inner City" is bounded by the Ringstrasse, a circular boulevard created to replace the ancient city walls in the late 19th century and, lined with magnificent buildings in widely divergent styles. Farther out are the former village districts, now suburban communities and some industrial parks, as well as Schoenbrunn Palace. The "beautiful blue Danube" so associated with Vienna does not actually flow through the city; it was blocked off in the 19th century to the city's east and a canal that borders the eastern side of the Ringstrasse is its nearest replacement.



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### Day 8 - to Prague (B, D)

After breakfast, depart by private motorcoach for Prague today. Upon arrival meet your guide and check into your hotel. Afternoon orientation of the city and its public transportation system. Free evening tonight.



Built on seven hills and bisected by the pretty Vltava River, this capital city is unique among Eastern European capitals in that it survived World War II nearly intact - as a result, it contains beautiful architecture, ranging from Romanesque and Gothic to Renaissance and Baroque. It's often called "the city of 100 spires" because of its many churches, and it also features numerous parks and lots of trees.

### Day 9 - Prague (B, L)

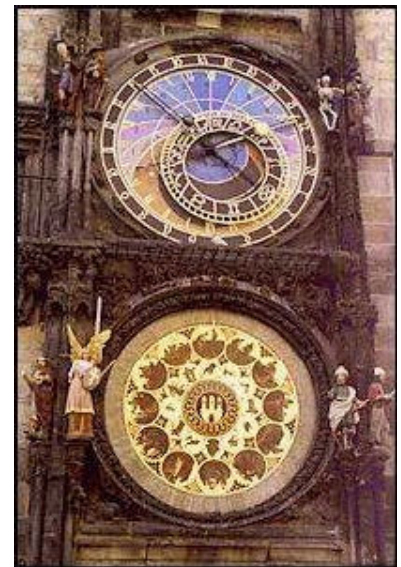
Morning guided sightseeing tour to include the Castle District, St. Vitus Cathedral and the home of Franz Kafka. Prague's magnificent gothic architecture will astound and amaze. Afternoon rehearsal and evening concert at a Prague church will be scheduled.

### Day 10 - Prague Suburbs (B, L)

Transfer this morning to Karlovy Vary, a quaint Czech spa town, for a concert. In a country of many spas, Karlovy Vary boasts the biggest spa of all. The town, situated in a winding river valley huddled between verdant hills, has a Victorian feel. Return to Prague for a free evening in the city.

### Day 11 - Prague (B, D)

Shop and sightsee on your final day in Prague. Our guide will be there to assist you in making decisions and in pointing out directions for your explorations. Tonight attend a final farewell dinner in your honor.



### Day 12 - USA (B, L, Snack)

Early departure for the airport to meet your morning flight to the USA. Welcome home!

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