



**SLOVAKIA
EXPLORER**



Cycling the Wine Trails of Austria, Czech and Slovakia

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Authentic cycling across Austria, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Holiday code: CVB

Countries included: Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia

Activity level: 3

Themes: Cycling

Tour type:

Minimum age: 16

Duration: 8 days

Available in: Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct

Overview

This bike tour is a unique combination of cycling in three countries; Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria (Austro-Hungarian Empire) combining some of the most popular cycle routes along the Danube River with unique 'off the beaten track' paths. Cycle through vineyards, visit 800 years old wine cellars built by the Templar Knights, explore the Slovak Carpathian mountains, castles and chateaus and get involved with locals on the way.

Over eight days you'll experience:

- **Elegant Vienna** – the capital of Austria.
- **UNESCO Lednice-Valtice** known as the Moravian Versailles.
- **Mikulov and Skalica**, charming wine-making royal towns.
- **Authentic wine tasting** with a local wine dresser, trying some locally produced wines and specialities including Skalický Rubín (Skalica's Ruby).
- **Cycle the Iron Curtain Trail** that was once heavily guarded by the Czechoslovakian army during



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the communist regime until 1989.

- **Charming Bratislava**, Slovakia's capital and the former coronation city of the Austro-Hungarian kings.
- **The Danube Cycle Path** from Bratislava to Vienna, or capital to capital in one day is a special experience that is rarely found outside of Europe.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Vienna, then transfer to Mikulov.

The week begins with three nights in the medieval town of Mikulov in southern Moravia, a region well known for producing some of the best Czech wines. Approaching Mikulov you will be greeted by the Mikulov Castle, an imposing structure high on white limestone cliffs, and the protected Svaty Kopecek ('Holy Hill') with a chapel and belfry.

Accommodation

Mikulov - Hotel Galant (or similar)

Meals included

none

Day 2: Explore the highlights of South Moravia - rich in folklore, wine traditions and full of beautiful chateaus.

In the morning we head to the protected Palava region of the Inner Western Carpathians. En route we see three castle ruins – Divci (Girls), Sirotci (Orphans) and Novy Hrad (New Castle). Afterwards, we cycle through the most romantic and historic area of southern Moravia, the UNESCO Lednice-Valtice grounds. There are many buildings to discover including the Lednický and Valtický chateaux, built by the Lichtenstein family. Also not to be missed is the Palm House, 92 metres long and hiding tropical vegetation from South America. Visit the minaret, from which there are stunning views over the chateau and park – but first you have to climb its 302 steps! In Valtice there is the opportunity to explore the large complex of wine cellars and underground passages beneath the town.

Total cycling

Distance: 51 km
Total Ascent: 440 m
Total Descent: 440 m
Max elevation: 368 m
Min elevation: 159 m

Accommodation

Mikulov - Hotel Galant (or similar)

Meals included

Breakfast

Day 3: Cycle to Cejkovice and visit 800-year-old wine cellars, then cross the Czech-Slovak border and continue to Skalica.

Today we cycle to Cejkovice where we have the opportunity to visit the famous 800-year-old wine cellars of the Knights Templar. This is also an ideal spot for refreshments before continuing over the border to the Slovakian royal town of Skalica, where we spend the next three nights.

Located at the foothills of the White Carpathians, Skalica is undoubtedly one of the nicest towns in western Slovakia. With a plethora of beautifully preserved historical monuments, it has six major churches, nine smaller sacred buildings, including the ancient St. George rotunda, parts of which date back to the twelfth century.

Total cycling

Distance: 69 km
Total Ascent: 293 m
Total Descent: 348 m
Min elevation: 159 m

Max elevation: 262 m

Accommodation

Skalica – Penzion na Potočnej (or similar)

Meals included

Breakfast

Day 4: Cycle to Straznica, visit the outdoor museum of Morava village, and enjoy wine tasting with a local wine dresser.

A cycle path will take us from Skalica along the banks of the Morava river and the Bata canal (Tomas Bata, of shoe making fame) to Straznice and its historic chateau. You'll have a guided tour around the outdoor museum of Morava village, made up of 64 houses presenting a way of life from centuries past.

After lunch in one of the local traditional restaurants you'll continue with your ride to the small winegrowing village of Petrov and its unique wine cellars – called Plze, a picturesque complex of white cellars with blue ornaments, typical for this region.

Returning back to Skalica you'll get ready for an authentic wine tasting experience with a local wine-dresser where you'll have a chance to sample some of the locally produced wines including Skalický Rubín (Skalica's Ruby), which is a reference to its specific colour.

This wine which is on EU's list of specialities can only be produced using grapes grown on the precisely defined territory of the Royal town of Skalica and several neighbouring villages, including Mokry Haj. This village was established in the foothills of the Vintoperk Hill by Croatian colonists in the second half of the 16th century.

Total cycling

Distance: 45 km
Total Ascent: 262 m
Total Descent: 171 km
Max elevation: 271 m
Min elevation: 262 m

Accommodation

Skalica – Penzion na Potočnej (or similar)

Meals included

Breakfast, dinner

Day 5: Follow the popular Moravia cycle path to Devin castle and Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia.

After breakfast you transfer 70km to Zahorska Ves located on the bank of the Morava River from where we follow the popular cycle path that leads us all the way to Bratislava, the Slovak capital and former coronation town of the Austria-Hungary monarchy.

En-route admire the untouched nature of the flood-plain forests that used to form the Iron Curtain border, dividing Austria and Czechoslovakia during the communist regime. You'll stop by Devin castle, located at the confluence of the rivers Morava and Danube, from where you can admire the beautiful panoramic views overlooking Austria.

You continue to Bratislava, a charming city with an intriguing history. We recommend an evening stroll through the old town, with its narrow streets and many historic sites along the Danube embankment, full of cafes and nightlife.

Total cycling

Distance: 45 km
Total Ascent: 114 m
Total Descent: 104 m
Max elevation: 171 m
Min elevation: 138 m

Accommodation

Bratislava – Hotel Devin (or similar)

Meals included

Breakfast

Day 6: A free day in Bratislava. Enjoy the old town and relax in a wellness centre after four days of cycling.

This day is free to explore charming Bratislava, the former coronation city of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Have a stroll through the narrow streets of the Old Town and a wander along the Danube with its many cafes and restaurants.

There are numerous fascinating historical buildings in Slovakia's capital. Some of our favourites are Bratislava Castle, the old town hall and the 18th century Primate's Palace, which has a beautiful pink and white façade and an amazing Hall of Mirrors. Just bear in mind that you'll need to pay any entrance fees.

Your tour leader will be there to help you with your chosen activities.

Meals included

Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotel Devín (or similar)

Day 7: Cycle the Danube cycle path or take the speed boat to Vienna.

Today you'll follow the popular Danube cycle path all the way from Bratislava to Vienna. The path leads us through the Donau-Auen National Park, which preserves the last remaining major wetlands area in Central Europe.

Once you get to Vienna, there will be time for a short stroll in the Old Town before our farewell dinner in one of the local Viennese restaurants.

In terms of distance, this is the most demanding day of the tour. The terrain is flat and normally everyone with an average level of fitness is fully capable of completing the ride all the way to Vienna.

Total cycling

Distance: 70km

Total Ascent: 661 m

Total Descent: 609 m

Max elevation: 207 m

Min elevation: 120 m

Meals included

Breakfast

Accommodation

Vienna - Hotel Boltzmann (or similar)

Day 8: Tour ends.

After breakfast your tour ends. Transfer to airport or extend your stay in Central Europe by booking another one of our adventure tours.

Meals included

Breakfast

Essential Holiday Information

Is this trip right for you?

This tour is graded as moderate to intermediate with a combination of shorter and longer rides. Sometimes the terrain will be flat, and sometimes it will be undulating. The difference with the Grade Two trips is that they have some longer days, and a few more hills.

What's Included

- Seven nights in three-star hotels and pensions
- Seven breakfasts, one dinner
- Wine tasting with local wine dresser

- Bike rental including pannier, lock and spare parts
- Maps and detailed route descriptions, routes for GPS devices
- All transfers as per itinerary
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- 24/4 local support
- Tour guide and support vehicle (only for guided groups)

What's not Included

- Flights
- Travel insurance
- Cycle helmet – you must bring your own
- Arrival and departure transfer

Optional

Single room supplement: 195 EUR

Group Size

Normally 14 max.

Start Point

This tour starts in Mikulov, Czech Republic.

End Point

This tour ends in Vienna, Austria.

Flights & Airports

To enhance flexibility our holidays do not include flights. This gives you the freedom to choose a local airport that works for you and shop for the best deal.

List of airports with distances to the first hotel in Vienna:

Vienna Airport – 20 km
Bratislava Airport – 75 km

Getting there & Airport transfers

Once you have decided which airport works for you best you will need to choose the way how to get to the starting hotel / joining point. There are two options:

Public transport

You can reach Vienna by public transport (bus, train). Using the public transport is another way of experiencing your destination, which puts you right in the centre of the action. If you prefer to travel by public transport we can help you find the best option.

Private transfers (door to door service)

Book your private airport transfers directly with us. Our fast, reliable and affordable private transfers are the best way to reach your starting hotel quickly and comfortably. For up-to-date prices of Airport private transfers click here.

Accommodation

During this tour you'll stay in comfortable three star hotels and pensions.

Extra Nights

If you need to arrive or leave on a different date, please contact us and we'd be more than happy to arrange extra pre or post tour accommodation for you.

Packing

We recommend you pack as light as possible, with a backpack for your main luggage and daypack for each day's cycling. Below you will find a recommended packing list. It is by no means exhaustive, so if you're in any doubt, please contact us.

We recommend you pack as light as possible, with a suitcase or backpack that are easy to lift and carry. A daypack for riding days is also useful. Below you will find a recommended packing list. It is by no means exhaustive, so if you're in any doubt, please contact us.

- T-shirts and shorts
- Long-sleeved breathable tops
- Trousers
- Jacket/coat/fleece
- Waterproofs
- Padded cycling shorts and gloves
- Strong trainers/shoes suitable for cycling
- Water bottle
- Small first-aid kit
- Sun cream, sunhat and sunglasses
- You must also bring your own cycle helmet

Itinerary disclaimer

Please note, we want to run this trip following the day-to-day itinerary on the trip notes. However, sometimes operational circumstances may sometimes prevent us from doing this. Your tour leader will keep you fully informed of any alternative plans that are necessary on-the-ground. Also, based on feedbacks from past travellers, occasionally our itineraries are amended. Final version of your trip notes will be emailed to you prior to travel.

Ready to go? Signing up is quick and easy!

1. Check availability online or contact us by email or phone.
2. Secure your place/s online by clicking the BOOK NOW button or contact us by email/phone. Your place is secured with a 99 EUR deposit per person and can pay by bank transfer.
3. Once the deposit is received a confirmation email will be sent to your email automatically, and your place/s will be officially confirmed.

Need more information?

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions at all. Our knowledgeable and helpful team is here to help, and we look forward to welcoming you to our spectacular country soon!

Why book with Slovakia Explorer

This holiday is operated by our expert, in-country team at Slovakia Explorer. By booking with us, you'll benefit from our unrivalled local knowledge, and have 24/7 support during your trip.

Our holidays offer unique experiences, which give you an unparalleled insight into the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria. During the planning and booking process, we pay attention to every detail of your holiday to ensure your trip is perfect.

Slovakia Explorer offers great value, high quality holidays.