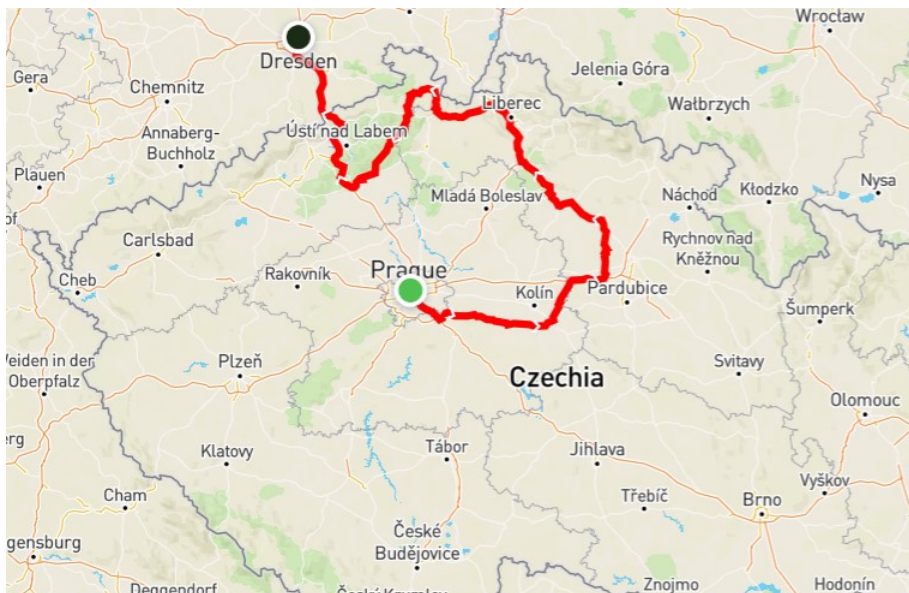


# Prague to Dresden, Enchanting Landscape

## Highlights

- Prague, arguably the most prominent historical gem of Central Europe
- UNESCO-listed Kutna Hora, a major silver-mining town in medieval Europe
- Architectural treasures in historical towns of Jicin and Litomerice
- Gentle landscaping of the Pruhonice Park
- Dramatic sandstone rocks formations of Bohemian Paradise
- Romantic ruins of Trosky and Kost castles
- Majestic Kacina and Hradek Chateaus
- Stunning natural spectacle of the gorges in Bohemian Switzerland
- Conical hills and diverse topography of Bohemian Middle Mountains
- Poignant reminder of the Holocaust in Terezin Ghetto



## **DAY 1** Arrival in Prague, orientation briefing

*Transfer from Prague Airport to our hotel in the city center on an individual basis. In the evening we meet our guide and enjoy dinner and an orientation briefing in a nearby restaurant.*

*Overnight: Prague*

## **DAY 2** Prague, the city of a hundred spires



**Charles Bridge in Prague**



**Prague Castle**

*After a hearty breakfast, embark on a brief journey to Prague, the enchanting capital of the Czech Republic. Initiate the city tour at the iconic Prague Castle, a vast complex showcasing the monumental St. Vitus Cathedral, the intricate stone vaults of Vladislav Hall, and the charming Golden Lane, adorned with picturesque little houses, all against a backdrop of breathtaking panoramic views of the city. Following a delightful lunch, cross the Moldau River to Josefov district, Prague's Jewish Quarter, where historical synagogues and the Old Jewish Cemetery beckon exploration. Our journey concludes with a stroll through the winding cobblestone streets of the Old Town. Here, the Gothic-style Town Hall and its astronomical clock, a marvel of medieval engineering, captivate attention in the fabulous square. After the city tour, return to our hotel and spend the remainder of the day at your leisure.*

*Overnight: Prague*

## **DAY 3** Gentle landscaping of Pruhonice Park (6mi/10km)



**Pruhonice Park**



**Open-Air Museum in Kurim**

*After breakfast, we embark on a short drive to Pruhonice, where we indulge in a delightful walk through the expansive Pruhonice Park – a UNESCO site and a significant landscape element in Europe. Established by Count Silva-Tarouca in 1885 during the peak of landscaping style, this park is a paradise for nature lovers. As we stroll, we encounter a diverse array of plants and trees, including magnolias, rhododendrons, azaleas, big-leaf linden trees, Alaska cedars, Japanese orixas, tulip trees, Serbian spruces, copper beeches, bald cypresses, snake branch spruces, and more. The free arrangement, typical of the park, features a harmonious interplay of woody plants, trees, shrubs, meadows, lakes, and meandering streams, all*

*complemented by strategically placed monuments like the Chateau, gloriette, or ornamental plant groups. Following lunch, we visit the Kourim Open-Air Museum, offering a glimpse into folk architecture, furnishings, and lifestyles of the 17th century. Later, we transfer to our hotel in Kutna Hora.*

*Overnight: Kutna Hora*

**DAY 4 Silver City of Kutna Hora (7.5mi/12km)**



***St. Barbara's Church in Kutna Hora***



***Vrchlice River Trail***

*Our hike commences at the remnants of Sion Castle, the final bastion of Protestant reformers who opposed the Catholic majority in the 15th century. A scenic journey unfolds through a romantically wooded valley alongside the Vrchlice Creek, with occasional crossings on small wooden bridges. Following a satisfying lunch, we reach Kutna Hora, a medieval gem once in economic, cultural, and political competition with Prague due to its rich silver ore deposits. Our exploration includes the awe-inspiring St. Barbara's Church, Baroque statues at the colossal Jesuit College, the monumental Gothic St. James's Church, and the Gothic Stone House adorned with rich decoration. Delving into history, we visit the Italian Court to learn about minting and explore an adit once employed for silver ore extraction. The tour also encompasses a visit to the Cistercian monastic church and the eerie Sedlec Ossuary, known for its unique artistic decorations crafted from bones and skeletons.*

*Overnight: Kutna Hora*

**DAY 5** Majestic Hradek Chateau and the Giant Mountains (6mi/10 km)



**Knights' Hall**



**Chateau in Hradek u Nechanic**

*Our morning transfer brings us to Nechanice, a village renowned for its fairytale chateau, now a national cultural monument. This impressive summer residence of Count Harrach, constructed in the romantic Tudor Gothic style, showcases the Count's wealth and power through its richly decorated interior and exquisite furnishings. A guided tour leads us through the dining room, library, Count and Countess's suites, picture gallery, guest and family chambers, sacristy, and St. Anne's Chapel, offering a glimpse into the nobility's lifestyle. In the afternoon, we embark on a hike through the gently undulating foothills of the Giant Mountains, passing picturesque wooden houses in the Belohrad Spa. A gentle ascent leads to the summit of Zvicina Hill, where we savor a refreshing glass of beer and absorb panoramic views from the lookout tower of the Rais Chalet. A short transfer then takes us to our hotel in the historic town of Jicin.*

*Overnight: Jicin*

**DAY 6** Sandstone rocks of Bohemian Paradise (6mi/10km)



**Prachov Rocks**



**Trosky Castle**

*Embarking on a day-long hike in the serene Bohemian Paradise, we traverse landscapes adorned with rolling hills, impressive rock formations and historic castles. The Golden Trail guides us through remarkable natural and cultural landmarks, including the unique shapes of the Prachov Rocks and the ruins of Parez Castle, once feared for its highwaymen. Our route leads us past a picturesque lake, culminating in*

*the breathtaking view from Trosky Castle, perched atop imposing basalt rocks. In the afternoon, we return to Jicin, the former seat of the 17th-century aristocrat Albrecht of Wallenstein, known for his lavish investments in the city. The day concludes with a delightful dinner featuring local cuisine in a tasteful restaurant.*

*Overnight: Jicin*

**DAY 7 Medieval Kost Castle and futuristic Jested Tower (6mi/10km)**



***Kost Castle***



***Jested Tower***

*Commencing our walk in the charming village of Vesec, renowned for its rustic cottages, we descend into the Plakanek Valley. A delightful stroll beside a meandering brook, flanked by sandstone walls, leads us to the formidable Kost Castle, remarkably preserved from the 14th century. Retaining its medieval allure and original architecture, the castle reflects the region's historical resilience. In the afternoon, a scenic hike along the Jested Ridge offers panoramic views of rolling hills, culminating at Jested Hill crowned by a futuristic television tower. The tower's unique design and innovative solutions earned it the prestigious Auguste Perret Prize, showcasing modern architecture even during the Communist era. Our day concludes with our arrival at a hotel in the Bohemian Switzerland National Park.*

*Overnight: Rynartice*

**DAY 8 Gorgeous gorges of Bohemian Switzerland (7mi/11km)**



***Kamnitz River***

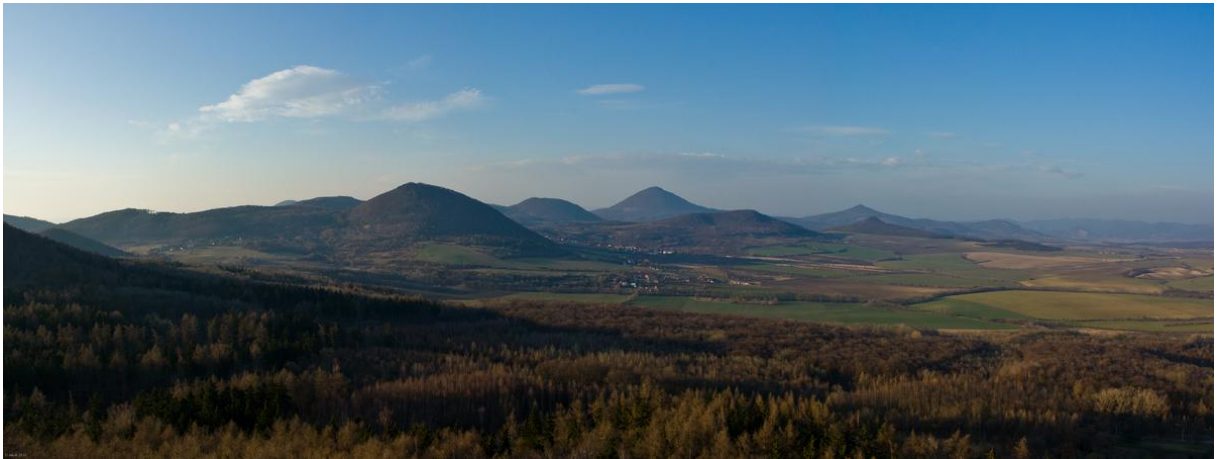


***Silent Gorge***

*We spend all day hiking in the Bohemian Switzerland National Park. Its romantic name comes from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when two Swiss painters sought inspiration alongside the River Elbe and the enchanting area reminded them of their homeland. Starting from our hotel, we descend into Paula's Valley, a canyon-shaped beauty, for a leisurely stroll beside the meandering Chribaska Kamnitz River. A picnic lunch precedes our trek through the renowned Wild and Silent Gorges along the Kamnitz River, made accessible to the public in the last century by Prince Edmund Clary-Aldringen. Wooden bridges and rock tunnels take us to a section which is only accessible by boat and where experienced boatmen share captivating regional stories. As the day concludes, we return to our hotel for relaxation.*

*Overnight: Rynartice*

### **DAY 9 Conical hills of Bohemian Middle Mountains (7mi/11km)**



***Bohemian Middle Mountains***

*Embark on a brief morning transfer to the enchanting landscape of the volcanic Bohemian Middle Mountains. From the Varhost lookout tower, absorb a panoramic vista of cone-shaped basalt hills, adorned with deposits of the renowned Bohemian Garnet gemstone. Traverse meadows and woods, unveiling the famous Porta Bohemica Canyon, sculpted by the Elbe River. After savoring the scenery from Calvary Hill, descend through the riverside valley to rejoin with our minibus driver. A swift transfer brings us to Litomerice, the historical "Garden of Bohemia," where architectural wonders like St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Bishop's Residency, All Saints' Church, and the chalice-shaped lookout tower of the Town Hall await exploration.*

*Overnight: Litomerice*

## **DAY 10** Terezin Concentration Camp and Dresden



*Terezin Memorial*



*Dresden skyline at night*

*Embark on a short transfer to the nearby town of Terezin, a bastion fort constructed by Emperor Josef II named after his mother Maria Theresa in 1780. This military fortress later repurposed by the Nazis as a Jewish concentration camp during World War II. Now serving as a Memorial, it honors the victims of Nazi persecution in former Czechoslovakia. After lunch, we take a short transfer to Dresden. This "Florence on the Elbe" boasts a rich cultural heritage, highlighted by the stunning baroque architecture of the Zwinger Palace and the reconstructed Frauenkirche, a symbol of resilience after WWII. The Semperoper Opera House, renowned for its world-class performances, and the extensive collections in the Green Vault reflect the city's artistic legacy. We take a stroll along the picturesque Brühl's Terrace, offering scenic views of the Elbe River, and enjoy the historical splendor. After the tour, we check in at our hotel and wrap up the day with a delightful farewell dinner.*

*Overnight: Dresden*

## **DAY 10** End of tour, departure

*Early morning transfer to the airport for departing flights.*