

CZECH HUNGARY TOUR

15 days / 13 Riding Days



Riding through Czech, Hungary and Austria

gives you the opportunity to visit some of the finest historical places in Europe: Prague, Budapest and Salzburg. From numerous castles and ruins that perch quietly near lost-in-time Baroque and Renaissance villages in Czech and Slovakia to Austrian Alps surrounded by magical mountain lakes and hidden alpine valleys to Hungarian wilderness and magical Budapest.

Since the fall of the Berlin wall Eastern European countries have come a long way. The nineties saw these lands transformed from an open air museum of socialism to renovated, colourful, central European states. Despite modernization, great care has been taken to preserve the magic of historical and cultural heritage, in some respects the countries' most valuable assets.

TOUR MAP



CULTURE



ROADS



LANDSCAPE



GENERAL OVERVIEW

DATES in 2010

July 31 - August 14
or any time May - Oct for Self guided tour

COUNTRIES

Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Slovenia

TOUR STARTS / ENDS

Ljubljana

REST DAYS

4; Budapest, High Tatra, Prague, Salzburg

ROUTE

Mileage: 2.700 km (1.700 miles)
Daily rides: 180 - 350 km (110 - 220 miles).
The whole tour runs on asphalt.

HIGHLIGHTS

Riding in Austrian Alps, Balaton Lake, Budapest, Castles in Czech, Prague, Cesky Krumlov, Salzburg, Grossglockner pass.

ACCOMMODATION

Very comfortable, middle-class hotels, always conveniently close to the town centre. Mostly 4 star.

DAY BY DAY

- Day1:** Arrival in Ljubljana
- Day2:** Ljubljana - Graz
- Day3:** Graz - Tihany
- Day4:** Tihany - Budapest
- Day5:** Rest day in Budapest
- Day6:** Budapest - High Tatra
- Day7:** Rest day in High Tatra
- Day8:** High Tatra - Olomouc
- Day9:** Olomouc - Prague
- Day10:** Rest day in Prague
- Day11:** Prague - Cesky Krumlov
- Day12:** Cesky Krumlov - Salzburg
- Day13:** Rest day in Salzburg
- Day14:** Salzburg - Ljubljana
- Day15:** Flight Home

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CZECH HUNGARY TOUR DAY BY DAY

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Ljubljana

Dobrodošli!
Welcome to Slovenia!

We'll greet you at the airport and bring you to your hotel in Ljubljana. In the afternoon, we have time for a short introductory ride around the countryside, to familiarize you with your motorcycle. Ride starts at 3 PM and takes about 2hrs. That night, you will experience a traditional Slovene meal and excellent wine, and we'll conduct a short tour briefing.

Day 2: Ljubljana - Graz

We'll start the day with some introductory riding through the Slovenian Alps. Part of the Eastern Alps mountain range, the Slovenian Alps provide fantastic riding through high alpine valleys and snow-capped mountains. We'll cross into Styria, the mountainous part of eastern Austria, and tour the meandering roads through an area famous for its vineyards and castles. Tonight we stay in Graz, the provincial capital with an exciting blend of old and new architecture. It's possible to climb the Schlossberg (Castle Hill), to view the Old Town and the ultra-modern bubble-shaped Kunsthaus Graz. Afterwards, we'll relax and have refreshments in the unique glass seashell-shaped Inisel café on the River Mur.

Day 3: Graz - Tihany

Today we continue to Hungary, winding through the hilly terrain of farm and wood land. We'll ride some of the best roads in Austria, all amazingly scenic and traffic-free. In the afternoon we arrive at Lake Balaton, also known as the 'Hungarian Sea'. At 77km long, Lake Balaton has shallow waters, sandy beaches and pretty shore-side towns with enchanting promenades. Visit the Tihany peninsula, a nature reserve protruding 5km into the lake. Tonight, we'll get our first chance to try excellent goulash and Tokaj wine.

Day 4: Tihany - Budapest

Next we're off to Budapest, Hungary's vibrant capital city, which straddles a gentle curve in the Danube. Budapest is a multicultural and fascinating city. The architecture of Budapest, and the lifestyle of its inhabitants, include remnants of its Turkish, Austrian and Socialist pasts, and is truly a pleasure to experience. With its incredible architecture and rich cultural heritage, Budapest deserves its reputation as the 'Paris of Central Europe'.

Day 5: Rest day in Budapest

Today we stay in and around Budapest. We'll take a guided tour around its most fascinating attractions. Castle Hill and Citadel on the Buda side have mansions and gorgeous churches which overlook the Danube River. On the left bank of the Danube, known as Pest, visit one of the most

picturesque parliaments in Europe and admire Hungarian kings on the Hero's Square. Stroll and shop on busy Vaci and Andrássy streets or soak in one of the city's many Turkish baths.

Day 6: Budapest - High Tatras

Continuing north through the fertile lowlands of the foothills of the Carpathian mountains, we find ourselves in Slovakia, a romantic and relatively tourist free country. Riding through the many unique towns and villages provides for an interesting cultural experience. We start to climb the Low Tatras mountains, ending the day in High Tatras National Park, an outdoors paradise near the Polish border. The High Tatras, with its jagged central massif rising out of the green plains, is Slovakia's biggest attraction. Gerlachovský štít, at 2654 meters, is the highest snow-capped mountain in the Tatras.

Day 7: Rest day in High Tatras

Today, on the rest day, we have a nice tour planned for you on the Polish side of the mountain range. You can explore the medieval town square of Levoca, or wander the Spis Castle ruins. Or take a highly recommended tour to Auschwitz, in neighboring Poland. Hundreds of thousands of tourists visit Auschwitz every year, an experience which sears the tragedy of genocide into their collective conscience. Or hike the numerous wilderness trails around the hotel. After a long day of touring, try bryndsove huluskey, Slovakia's national dish of gnocchi like dumplings topped with soft sheep's cheese.

Day 8: High Tatras - Olomouc

In the morning ride the beautiful 'Freedom Road' along the whole Tatras mountain range. We continue through lush forests of the Slovakian countryside past medieval Orava castle before entering Czech Republic, a landlocked country bordering Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Poland. Coffee breaks are spent in the central squares of beautiful Renaissance towns or at the side of clear streams in the scenic rural areas. Tonight we stay in Olomouc, one of Czech's most beautiful, interesting and exciting cities all at once. With tourist numbers down to a trickle compared to the capital, Olomouc with its squares, fountains and astronomical clock remains one of the Czech Republic's best-value cities.

Day 9: Olomouc - Prague

Today we ride through famed Bohemia, which provides fast riding through a landscape of sandstone pinnacles, heady ravines, rich forests, and lush meadows. Occasionally we slow down as we pass through quaint towns of gabled, half-timbered houses. On the way we stop in Kutná Hora to visit ghoulish Ossuary Chapel of All Saints. Traffic will pick up slightly as we approach the Golden City of Prague, which outwardly appears as a city forgotten in time. It's a place where different architectural styles stand cheek

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by jowl, creating an atmosphere that's both intimate and romantic, and quite impossible to forget once you visit.

Day 10: Rest day in Prague

A rest day in this stunning city will give you the opportunity to walk the old town and enjoy its grandeur in full. Or make a day ride back into the fantastic Bohemian countryside, stopping in the legendary town of Plzen, where lager was invented in 1842. Pilsner Urquell is located here, and it is possible to visit the Brewery Museum housed in an authentic medieval malt house. Back in Prague, non-riders can spend the day taking in the many sites within Prague Castle, or wandering the lanes of Baroque neighborhoods. Finish your walking tour in the Stare Mesto (Old Town) next to the city's famous Charles Bridge. And do not leave town without tasting some of many excellent beers that are brewed here.

Day 11: Prague - Cesky Krumlov

Leaving Prague we ride south into Central Bohemia, a land of numerous castles and old towns. We ride the gentle, sweeping roads of an area of green farmland networked with small lakes, until we meet and ride alongside the meandering Vltava River. The best part of the day is fabulous riding through low, forest clad hills of the Sumava range national park. In the evening, we pull into the enchanting town of Cesky Krumlov, a World Heritage Site, where the majority of buildings are designated cultural monuments.

Day 12: Cesky Krumlov - Salzburg

From the legendary beauty of the Czech Republic, we pass back into Austria, into the Salzkammergut, an area known for its tall pointed peaks and picture-perfect lakes which provide for great riding on twisty roads over high passes. Once the holiday destination of the Hapsburgs, we will ride

narrow sweeping roads through several beautiful resort and spa towns, tucked into the side of high mountains and on the shores of peaceful lakes. At the end of the day Salzburg awaits.

Day 13: Rest day in Salzburg

Some of the best riding in all of Austria can be done out of Salzburg. A motorcycle mecca, the Lake District provides several routes to choose from, all giving a challenging, scenic day of riding. Today you also get the chance to ride the highest and most enjoyable pass in the Austrian Alps, Grossglockner. Grossglockner high Alpine road takes you on a magical 50km journey between 800 and 2.500m above sea level and offers staggering views on all sides. Or spend the day exploring Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart, and home to a world-famous classical-music tradition.

Day 14: Salzburg - Ljubljana

Our last day might be the most enjoyable ride since we'll be snaking up and down high alpine passes, admiring valleys below and snow covered mountains above. This is the Hohe Tauern (high passes), which includes some of the highest mountains in the Alps and definitely the highest mountains in Austria. Riding the challenging mountain twisties provides much memorable exhilaration on our final riding day. We pass the border into Slovenia again, still on the exciting mountain roads, before dropping into the fertile Slovenian countryside and returning once again to Ljubljana.

Day 15: Flight Home

Stroll through the narrow streets of Ljubljana, enjoying the charming old town with its animated cafe culture and trendy shops. Or try Castle Hill, which provides excellent 360 degree views of the city, before heading out to the airport.

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2010 CZECH HUNGARY TOUR MOTORCYCLE PRICES (per person in EUR)

Motorbike	Sharing a double room and riding the motorcycle two up.	Sharing a double room and riding the motorcycle solo.	Staying in a single room and riding the motorcycle solo.
Honda CBF 600 S Suzuki V-Strom 650	2.550	3.230	3.630
BMW F 650 GS Honda CBF 1000	2.640	3.390	3.790
BMW F 800 GS	2.750	3.580	3.980
BMW R 1200 GS BMW R 1200 R Yamaha FJR 1300	2.950	3.800	4.200
BMW R 1200 RT	3.180	4.110	4.510
Your Own Motorcycle	1.920	2.070	2.470
Self-guided tour	app 20% discount applies for tour prices above, contact us		

Group discounts available.

The 15 day Czech Hungary Tour includes:

- Late model motorcycle with lockable hard luggage and/or tank bags plus a Third party liability insurance and Comprehensive vehicle insurance.
- Competent guide on a motorcycle.
- Support van for luggage and souvenir purchases.
- 14 nights accommodation in quality 3*** or 4**** hotels.
- 14 complete buffet breakfasts in the hotel.
- 10 dinners, mostly in traditional local restaurants.
- Guided tour of Budapest and Prague with local guide.
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure.
- Highlighted maps of the region
- Extensive tour booklet.

Not included in the tour price:

Air ticket, dinners on rest days, most lunches, drinks, gasoline, tolls, personal spending, tips.