



## **TRIP ITINERARY**

### **EASTERN PROMISES: HUNGARY, SLOVAKIA, CZECH REPUBLIC AND POLAND**

**CYCLE FROM SPECTACULAR BUDAPEST, HUNGARY TO HISTORICALLY RICH KRAKOW, POLAND – FROM THE SHORES OF THE DANUBE, ACROSS RURAL SLOVAKIA, INTO BEAUTIFUL TOWNS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND FINALLY INTO POLAND. 14 NIGHTS, 15 DAYS.**

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## **2010 DATES**

*Sunday, September 12 to September 26, 2010*

*JOINING IN Budapest, Hungary (departing Krakow, Poland)*

**LAND COST** *\$3690 Canadian*

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** *\$525 Canadian*

## **INCLUDES**

- ❖ Expert Cycleventures leaders and full-time van support with snacks
- ❖ Airport pick-up and drop off
- ❖ Two and three star hotel accomodation
- ❖ Two guided walking tours, maps, detailed Route Description and daily Map Sessions
- ❖ All breakfasts and 8 dinners (6 dinners on own)
- ❖ Detailed pre-departure information and trip extention assistance
- ❖ Cycleventures t-shirt

## **DOES NOT INCLUDE**

- ❖ International airfare, airport taxes and excess baggage charges (if any)
- ❖ Alcoholic drinks and personal items
- ❖ Optional tipping to guides
- ❖ Personal travel and medical insurance
- ❖ Your bike and related equipment

## **ITINERARY**

The following is a general outline for the *Budapest to Krakow: Eastern Promises* trip.

### **DAY 1 – SEPTEMBER 12: WELCOME TO BUDAPEST**

Cycleventures will meet you at the Budapest Airport and transfer you and your bike to our hotel. After setting our bikes up we'll meet for our trip orientation and welcome drink. Dinner on your own tonight.

### **DAY 2 – SEPTEMBER 13: EXPLORE BUDAPEST**

Located on the banks of the Danube, Budapest is regarded as one of Europe's most beautiful cities. Its extensive World Heritage Site includes the Buda Castle Quarter, the Andrassy Avenue, Heroes Square and the Millenium Underground Railway. This afternoon we'll take a guided tour of the Buda Castle.

### **DAY 3 – SEPTEMBER 14: CYCLE BUDAPEST TO ESZTERGOM, HUNGARY ALONG THE DANUBE, 66 KM**

Today's easy ride takes us north along the flat shores of the Danube to the town of Esztergom, one of the oldest towns in Hungary which was the capital of the country from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century. Its cathedral Esztergom Basilica, is the largest church in Hungary.

### **DAY 4 – SEPTEMBER 15: CYCLE ESZTERGOM TO NITRA, SLOVAKIA, 91 KM**

We leave the Danube and ride north across nearly flat farm land, through little hamlets to the town of Nitra. As early as the 7<sup>th</sup> century, Nitra was already a political and commercial centre of the Slav tribes. The town features a 17<sup>th</sup> century castle and several impressive churches. Dinner on your own tonight.

### **DAY 5 – SEPTEMBER 16: CYCLE NITRA TO TRENCIN, SLOVAKIA, 85 KM**

Continuing north in a large valley, we ride to Topolcany and nearby Tovarniky, a small town with a large castle built during the time of the Turkish threat. We continue to Trencin on the shores of the Vah river. Trencin has a well-preserved historic center with an 11<sup>th</sup> century Gothic castle. In ancient times Tencin was the site of the Roman military camp, Laugaricio. Dinner on your own tonight.

### **DAY 6 – SEPTEMBER 17: CYCLE TRENCIN TO KROMERIZ, CZECH REPUBLIC, 89 KM**

Up and over the Small Carpathians we ride (don't worry, this is low chain of old mountains) and into the Czech Republic and South Moravia, a region with a wealth of historic remains with lovely villages, imposing monasteries, castles and palaces. Tonight we bed down in Kromeriz which features the UNESCO-listed archbishop's palace.

### **DAY 7 – SEPTEMBER 18: CYCLE KROMERIZ TO BOSKOVICE, CZECH REPUBLIC, 71 KM**

Today's gently rolling ride takes us to Krtiny, hidden amid forests and rocks, a small village and castle that's home to the famous Church of our Lady, one of the crowning achievements of Moravian Baroque architecture. Boskovice, where we end up today, is one of the most beautiful towns in the region with two impressive historical sights, the 13<sup>th</sup> century Boskovice Castle and magnificent Boskovice Chateau.

**DAY 8 – SEPTEMBER 19: CYCLE BOSKOVICE TO OLOMOUC, CZECH REPUBLIC, 56 KM**

Heading into North Moravia we go, across rolling hills, farmland and dense evergreen forests. You have two palaces to choose from on route – the Plumlov Palace or Namest na Hane Palace. Both feature beautiful gardens, lavishly decorated rooms, libraries and courtyards. Dinner on your own tonight.

**DAY 9 – SEPTEMBER 20: EXPLORE OLOMOUC**

Olomouc, one of Moravia's oldest towns, is full of historic sights and a major cultural and educational center. Its historic town centre is second to Prague's old town in terms of size and features the huge 15<sup>th</sup> century Church of St. Maurice, the Horni namesti and its 13<sup>th</sup> century town hall and several other impressive churches. Dinner on your own tonight.

**DAY 10 – SEPTEMBER 21: CYCLE OLOMOUC TO STRAMBERK, CZECH REPUBLIC, 77 KM**

Today's route takes us east to the town of Hranice and its late-Renaissance castle and the Baroque Church of Saint John the Baptist from 1763. Another interesting town to see along the way is Novy Jicin with its original square dating from the Middle Ages. Tonight we bed down in Stramberk which boasts a unique collection of timbered houses from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**DAY 11 – SEPTEMBER 22: CYCLE STRAMBERK TO CIESZYN, POLAND, 68 KM**

Continuing east we cross into Poland in Cesky Tesin where the border was laid through town at the end of WWI using the Olse river. Just across the border is Cieszyn which is sometimes called Little Vienna, a picturesque town with an impressive town square and 12<sup>th</sup> century castle and 10<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque chapel.

**DAY 12 – SEPTEMBER 23: CYCLE CESKY TESIN TO OSWIECIM, POLAND, 62 KM**

An easy ride north on country roads leads us to Oswiecim and the site of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the former Nazi Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp. This afternoon we'll visit the site and state museum.

**DAY 13 – SEPTEMBER 24: CYCLE TO KRAKOW, POLAND, 59 KM**

Today's ride is on a web of rural roads and farmland along the Wisla river and into Krakow. Dinner on your own tonight.

**DAY 14 – SEPTEMBER 25: EXPLORE KRAKOW**

The royal capital for 500 years, Krakow is a treasure trove of Gothic and Renaissance architecture that emerged largely intact after WWII. What to see? The Old Town with its soaring Gothic churches and gargantuan Rynek Glowny (Main Market Square), the largest in the nation, and the former Jewish quarter Kazimierz and its silent synagogues. The highlight of Krakow though is the Wawel Castle, Poland's most visited sight.

**DAY 15 – SEPTEMBER 26: FLY HOME**

This morning your guides will drive you to the Krakow airport for your flight home.

**TOTAL CYCLING DISTANCE:** 723 km  
**DAILY AVERAGE:** 72 km  
**CYCLING DAYS:** 10  
**EXPLORATORY / OPTIONAL CYCLING DAYS:** 3

Van assistance is available for those who wish to shorten the longer days.

## **DETAILS**

### **ACTIVITY LEVEL**

This trip is rated as a Level II. The first few days of the trip are nearly flat, then we are in rolling hills, river valleys and farm land for the duration of the trip. As with all Cycleventures' trips, you can always get a ride in the van if you want.

### **BIKE AND EQUIPMENT**

A good touring bike or racing bike is suitable for this trip.

### **LODGING AND FOOD**

We'll be staying in three star hotels when possible and some simpler two-stars. Some small more remote towns have limited hotels available. We'll always be enjoying delicious meals. Please let us know if you have special diet needs.

### **CLIMATE**

September can be cool at times, especially in the mornings and evenings. Cyclists will need to be prepared for colder wet riding, and warm sunny days too.

### **THE NEXT STEP**

Call us toll free at 1-866-894-0220, or email at [info@cycleventures.com](mailto:info@cycleventures.com) to confirm that there is space on this trip. Then, fill out our secure online registration form on our website. Make sure that you have read and understand our Terms and Conditions and Waiver. Upon booking, we will send you detailed pre-departure information to make sure that you are well prepared for the adventure ahead.

### **QUESTIONS**

Feel free to call us at 1.866.894.0220 or email [info@cycleventures.com](mailto:info@cycleventures.com) if you have any questions. We are here to help!

### **CONTACT US**

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