

**AUSTRIA/  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
SALZBURG TO  
PRAGUE  
7 NIGHTS/8 DAYS**

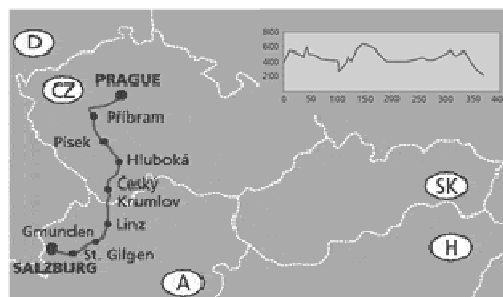


*Austria/Czech Republic Salzburg to Prague Road Book*



## Salzburg to Prague 7N Cycling Tour

### General Itinerary



**Day 1: Arrive Salzburg. Cycle along the Mozart cycling path to St. Gilgen**

**Day 2: Ride from St. Gilgen to Linz**

**Day 3: Ride to Cesky Krumlov**

**Day 4: Ride to Hluboka nad Vltavou**

**Day 5: Ride to Pisek**

**Day 6: Ride to Pribram**

**Day 7: Ride to Prague**

**Day 8: Departure day**

Start your bicycle tour in Salzburg with a panorama of the Alps at your back, cycling through the spectacular Salzkammergut, to medieval Cesky Krumlov. Then on to Prague, city of a thousand spires. Between them you will bike through country that epitomizes what most people think of when they hear the word "Europe": small towns watched over by ancient castles, deep green forests and rolling hills, little villages with church steeples dotting the countryside. Enjoy an original Budweiser in Ceske Budejovice, then go with the flow of the Vltava River until you reach magnificent Prague. This trail has a superb combination of landscape, chateaux, and three fabulous cities.

## General Information



### Czech Republic History

#### at a glance...

Since time immemorial, the Czech lands have been the crossroads of European cultures. The cultural character of Czech cities, villages and spa towns has always been a source of inspiration to visitors and guests, who come here from all corners of the world. The Czech Republic, among the youngest in the family of European countries, was born on January 1st, 1993, when the Czechoslovak Federal Republic split into two independent states, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Since May, 2004, the Czech Republic has been a member of the European Union; it has been a full-fledged NATO member since 2002. Even though the Czech Republic's area of 78,864 square kilometers (about 30,450 square miles) ranks it among small countries, its wealth of natural beauty and monuments of cultural heritage contribute greatly to its global prestige as a major cultural destination.

When it comes to world travel, the Austria and the Czech Republic may not be the first destination that comes to mind. But with the picturesque castles, deep rooted culture, scenic parks and medieval villages their is actually a lot more to offer than you might think. Located right at the heart of Europe, they are home to a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and produce some of the world's most popular beers. And the landscape, with its rolling hills and peaceful valleys makes it the perfect location to cycle and a particularly enchanting place for cycling enthusiasts. Enjoy the adventure of the ride while experiencing all the beauty and charm that these countries have to offer. For these reasons and countless others, a bike through Austria and the Czech Republic should be on any cyclist's wish list.

### Austria History at a glance ...

The origins of Austria today date back to the time of the Habsburg dynasty as a part of the Holy Empire of German Nation; Austria became one of the great powers of Europe. In 1867, the Austrian Empire was reformed into Austria-Hungary. The Habsburg (Austro-Hungarian) Empire collapsed in 1918 with the end of World War I. The First Austrian Republic, a German State was established in 1919. In the 1938 Anschluss, Austria was occupied and annexed by Nazi Germany. This lasted until the end of World War II in 1945, after which Nazi Germany was occupied by the Allies and Austria former democratic constitution was restored. In 1955, the Austrian State Treaty re-established Austria as a sovereign state, ending the occupation. In the same year, the Austrian Parliament created the Declaration of Neutrality which declared that the Second Austrian Republic would become permanently neutral. Today, Austria is one of the richest countries in the world, with a nominal per capita GDP of \$43,723 (2010 est.). The country has developed a high standard of living and in 2010 was ranked 25th in the world for its Human Development Index.

## Czech cuisine

Menus have two sets of entries, ready-to-serve (hotova jidla) and cooked to order (minutky). The first are generally traditional Czech dishes - meats (pork or beef) in heavy cream sauces served with dumplings (knedliky). Side dishes of rice, potatoes or French fries are the most common and they have to be ordered separately. Every main dish is usually garnished with obloha (cucumber, tomato, lettuce, cabbage or pickles). Meats and yeast-dumplings dominate the national lunch table. The traditional Czech dish is knedlo, zelo, vepro (roast pork served with sauerkraut and dumplings). Other classic dishes are svickova na smetane (sliced beef sirloin served in a cream sauce with a garnish of cranberries and, of course, dumplings) or gulas (goulash served with dumplings and often garnished with onion slices). Fish, pond-bred carp or trout, are worth trying. Czech menus offer some very tasty appetizers, such as Prague ham filled with horseradish cream, cheese plates and hot soups. For dessert, most places serve palacinky (rolled crepes filled with either fruit or jam and topped with whipped cream and chocolate), ovocne knedliky (dumplings filled with plums or other fruit and topped with sugar, cream cheese and melted butter) or jablecny strudl (apple strudel, sometimes served with vanilla ice-cream or whipped cream).



## Czech beer, wine, and more ...



Beer is the most prolific drink in all of the country. The beer is very good, especially in Southern Moravia. Budvar, the original Budweiser, is widely found in a variety of styles. Pilsners are favorites. The Czechs drink more than 160 liters of beer per person per year! A half-liter mug is likely cheaper than a glass of soda or cup of coffee. The best-known brands are Plzensky Prazdroj (Pilsner Urquell) and Budejovicky Budvar (Budweiser), but just as good are Gambrinus, Krusovice, Radegast, Velkopopovicky kozel or Staropramen. In general, cerne pivo (dark beer) is sweet while svetle pivo (a light, golden-color beer) is bitter. Among wines, Moravian varieties are the best. The favorite Czech aperitif is Becherovka - a bitter-sweet herbal liqueur. It is made to a secret recipe in Karlovy Vary and it can be served as both, an aperitif or diluted with tonic water. Another typical drink is Fernet Stock - dark-color, very bitter herbal liqueur which tastes great mixed with tonic water. Both liqueurs are touted as having medicinal qualities. Water is not usually served automatically and must be asked for. The most popular brand of mineral water is Mattoni or Dobra voda (Good Water) - both carbonated. The most common Turecka kava (Turkish coffee) is thick stuff that will leave your mouth full of grinds if you are not careful enough. Filter coffee - prekapavana kava - with milk is becoming very popular.

## Austrian Cuisine

Breakfast is of the "continental" type, usually consisting of bread rolls with either jam or cold meats and cheese, accompanied by coffee, tea or juice. The midday meal was traditionally the main meal of the day, but in modern times as Austrians work longer hours further from home this is no longer the case. The main meal is now often taken in the evening.

A mid-morning or mid-afternoon snack of a slice of bread topped with cheese or ham is referred to as a *Jause*, and a more substantial version akin to a British "Ploughman's Lunch" is called a *Brettljause* after the wooden board on which it is traditionally served.

The most popular meats in Austria are pork, beef and chicken. The famous Wiener Schnitzel is traditionally made of veal. Pork in particular is used extensively, with many dishes using offal and parts such as the snout and trotters. Austrian butchers use a number of special cuts of meat, including "Tafelspitz" (beef), and "Fledermaus" (pork), named for its shape which resembles a bat. Austrian cuisine has many different sausages, like "Frankfurter", "Debreziner" (named after Debrecen in Hungary), or "Burnwurst", "Blunzn" made out of pig-blood and "Grüne Würstl" - green sausages. Green means raw in this context – the sausages are air dried and are consumed boiled. Bacon in Austria is called "Speck", bacon can be smoked, raw, salted, spiced etc. Bacon is used in many traditional recipes as a salty spice. *Vanilleroastbraten* is a beef dish prepared with lots of garlic.



Some other popular dishes include the following:

Rindsuppe—(beef soup) a clear soup with golden color.

Tafelspitz—beef boiled in broth, often served with apple and horseradish sauce)

Gulasch—a hotpot similar to Hungarian *pörkölt* - Austrian goulash is eaten often with rolls, bread or dumplings ("Semmelknödel")

Beuschel—(a ragout containing calf lungs and heart)

Liptauer—spicy cheese spread, eaten on a slice of bread

Selchfleisch—(smoked, then cooked meat) with Sauerkraut and dumplings.

Powidl—a thick sweet and spicy jam made from plums.

Apfelstrudel—apple strudel

Topfenstrudel—cream cheese strudel

Palatschinken—pancakes similar to French Crêpes, filled with marmalade, jam, sprinkled with sugar etc. They are also served in savory versions i.e. with spinach and cheese.

Kaiserschmarrn—soft, fluffy pancake ripped into bites and slightly roasted in a pan, served with applesauce or stewed plums.

Germknödel—a fluffy yeast dough dumpling filled with spicy plum jam (Powidl), garnished with melted butter and a mix of poppy seeds and powdered sugar, sometimes served with vanilla cream.

## DAY 1



### DAY 1: Salzburg - St. Gilgen (45 km / 28 miles)

Start in Salzburg. This impressive town, situated on the banks of the Salzach River, is where the composer Mozart was born and raised. On this first day cycle along the Mozart cycling path. This winds its way through beautiful Alpine countryside, the Salzkammergut, along the Mondsee and Wolfgangsee lakes to St. Gilgen. Overnight in St. Gilgen.

### Salzburg sights

Some recommended sights while in Salzburg include:

- Salzburg Cathedral
- Hellbrunn Palace & Trick Fountains
- Salzburg Museum
- Hohensalzburg Fortress
- Mozart's Birthplace
- Mozart's Residence
- Museum of Modern Art Salzburg Monchsberg
- Museum of Natural History
- Residence Gallery Salzburg
- Salzburg Zoo



For more information about Salzburg, including recommended pubs and beer gardens to gourmet restaurants and coffee houses, go to: <http://www.salzburg.info/en/>

### Salzburg

Salzburg means "salt castle", referring to its massive fortress and the white gold from the mountains in the south. It is the capital of a federal province of Austria with the same name. With approximately 150,000 residents, Salzburg is the fourth largest Austrian city. The city's magnificent Baroque town center is rated as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site and can easily be explored by foot. A classic music festival, "Salzburg's most famous son", and the heart-warming musical "The Sound of Music" created the area's fame and popularity with music enthusiasts all over the world.

### The Salzburg Festival (*Salzburger Festspiele*)

is a prominent festival of music and drama that was established in 1920. It is held each summer for five weeks starting in late July within the Austrian town. One highlight is the annual performance of the *Everyman* (*Jedermann*) dramatization by Hugo von Hofmannsthal, written between 1903 and 1911. The production takes place on the Domplatz in front of the cathedral to incorporate the facade of the Salzburger Dom into the play. Playing the "Jedermann" in Salzburg is considered to be one of the most prestigious stage roles an actor can get in the German speaking world.

For more information and specific dates, the official website for the Salzburg Festival is [www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/](http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/)



## Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Salzburg's most famous son

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born on January 27, 1756 as the seventh child of "Salzburg's royal chamber musician" Leopold Mozart and his wife, Anna Maria Walpurga née Pertl of St. Gilgen. At a very early age, the two surviving children, Maria Anna, known as "Nannerl" and her younger brother Wolfgang, displayed an extraordinary musical talent. Their father neglected his own musical work to devote himself to the education and exploitation of his children. On January 12, 1762 Leopold Mozart embarked on a journey with his family which he had planned with great circumspection and skill. For Wolfgang, a time of travelling began, a time of restlessness which was to fill almost a third of his short life. The journeys took him to the most magnificent royal courts of his time. He won great acclaim in Munich and Vienna. Mozart tried to establish himself as an independent composer in Vienna, which appeared to be "the best place in the world for his metier" and earned a living mostly by composing operas ("Die Entführung aus dem Serail" (The Abduction from the Seraglio) K. 384, "Der Schauspieldirektor" K. 486, "Le Nozze di Figaro" (The Marriage of Figaro) K. 492), as a piano virtuoso of his own compositions and as a teacher. On August 4, 1782 he married Constanze Weber without his father's blessing. She is criticized by posterity as being extravagant, unfeeling and extremely enterprising after the death of her husband. His last two successful operas were "La Clemenza di Tito" K. 621, which premièred in Prague on September 6, 1791 and "Zauberflöte" (Magic Flute) K. 620, at the Freihaustheater in Vienna. Mozart died in the house in Rauhensteingasse in which he had composed "Zauberflöte" and his unfinished "Requiem" K. 626 on December 5, 1791 at the age of 35 years of "heated military fever".



## Restaurant suggestions from (viamichelin.com)

### Salzachgrill

Schwarzstr. 5  
5020 Salzburg  
Tel: 0662 889770  
Www.sacher.com

### Pan e Vin

Gstattengasse 1  
5020 Salzburg  
Tel: 0662 844666  
Www.panevin.at

### Carpe Diem

Getreidegasse 50  
5020 Salzburg  
Tel: 0662 848800  
Www.carpediemfinestfing

## Meals

Included in your program are breakfasts at the establishments where you stay. Dining at night is on your own. Your roadbook that you will receive upon arrival contains suggestions. Lunches are also on your own. Plan ahead each day to buy your picnic items before departing on the bike. Most dining establishments are casual, although shorts are usually not appropriate for "tablecloth dining". Polo shirts, slacks, loafers, or other closed toe shoes are good. Jackets, dresses and blazers are good all purpose items for those slightly more elegant occasions.



## DAY 2



### Day 2: St. Gilgen – Gmunden - Linz (59 km / 37 miles)

Today you will cycle to Bad Ischl at the foot of the 1450m high Katrin Mountain. Here you can visit the Imperial Villa, the summer residence of the Austrian Emperor. Continue along the river Traun to Lake Traunsee where you will see the major highlight of the day, chateau Orth, situated on an island in the middle of the lake. Transfer by train from Gmunden to Linz. Overnight in Linz.

### St. Gilgen

In 2005 St. Gilgen was promoted as the "Mozart Village" by the Wolfgangsee Tourist Board. Although Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart never visited St. Gilgen (as he had intended to), his grandfather worked in the town, his mother was born in St. Gilgen (In the vicinity of the Rathaus [Town Hall] is the house in which his mother, Anna Maria Pertl, was born in 1720), and his sister *Nannerl* moved there after her marriage. The village now boasts a first-class international school, the St. Gilgen International School. Once a stronghold of the prince-archbishops of Salzburg, St. Gilgen today is the playground for the city's new aristocracy: the fashionable and wealthy who maintain mountain villas here. In summer the resort attracts mainly Austrians and Germans to the indoor swimming pool and bathing beach. The Mozart Fountain, built in 1927, stands on the main square in front of the Rathaus.

### Did you know?

Austrian cakes and pastries are a well-known feature of its cuisine. Perhaps the most famous is the Sachertorte, a chocolate cake with apricot jam filling, traditionally eaten with whipped cream. Among the cakes with the longest tradition is the Linzer torte.

### The Wolfgangsee

The Wolfgangsee stretches about 10.5 kilometres from the northwest to the southeast. It is divided into two parts by a peninsula, called *die Enge* (the Narrow), situated roughly in the middle of its southern shore opposite St. Wolfgang, where the breadth is no more than 200 metres. The western portion of the lake at St. Gilgen is known as the *Abersee*. The lake has an area of about 12.9 to 13.1 km<sup>2</sup> and is completely surrounded by the Salzkammergut mountain range. On the northern side, the Schafberg is located. A rack railway, the Schafbergbahn leads up to the summit at 1,782 m. Due to the steep shore at its foot only a footpath connects St. Wolfgang and the village of Ried with St. Gilgen along the *Falkensteinwand*, the set of the *Bergpsalmen* ("mountain psalms") lyric anthology written by Joseph Viktor von Scheffel in 1870. In the south and southwest of the Wolfgangsee lies the *Osterhorngruppe*, with heights up to 1,800 metres. Directly south of St. Gilgen rises the *Zwölferhorn* (1,521 m), which can be visited by cable car.





### Chateau Orth

**Schloss Ort** (or *Schloss Orth*) is an Austrian castle situated in the Traunsee lake, in Gmunden, 19 km from Vöcklabruck, the gate to Salzkammergut. The castle was founded around 1080 by Hartnidus of Ort. The castle changed ownership many times over the many years and today is being used for



a study center of the Federal Ministry for Land and Forestry. On January 5, 1995, the castle was officially acquired by the city of Gmunden (once again), and 1996, it began to be used as a location for the TV series *Schlosshotel Orth*.

### Linz

The city is home to a vibrant music and arts scene that is well-funded by the city and the state of Upper Austria. Between the Lentos Art Museum and the "Brucknerhaus", is the "Donaulände", which is also referred to as "Kulturmeile" ("culture mile"). This is a park alongside the river, which is used mainly by young people to relax and meet in summer. It is also used for the Ars Electronica Festival and the "Linz Fest". Linz has other culture institutions, such as



the Posthof, which is near the harbor, and the Stadtwerkstatt, which is by the Danube river. The Pflasterspektakel, an international street art festival, takes place each year in July in and around the Landstraße and the main square. Linz was the European Capital of Culture in 2009, along with Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania.

### Linz and Adolf Hitler

Adolf Hitler was born in the border town of Braunau am Inn but moved to Linz in his childhood. Hitler spent most of his youth in the Linz area, from 1898 until 1907, when he left for Vienna. The family lived first in the village of Leonding on the outskirts of town, and then in an apartment on the Humboldtstrasse in Linz itself. Hitler's parents are buried in Leonding. After elementary education in Leonding, Hitler was enrolled in the *Realschule* (school) in Linz.

The association of the city with Hitler's childhood warranted an allusion in a poem by W.H. Auden, September 1, 1939: "*Accurate scholarship can/Unearth the whole offense/ From Luther until now/ That has driven a culture mad, Find what occurred at Linz....*" To the end of his life, Hitler considered Linz to be his "home town", and envisioned extensive architectural schemes for it, wanting it to become the main cultural center of the Third Reich. In order to make the city economically vibrant, Hitler initiated a major industrialization of Linz shortly before, and during, World War II. Many factories were dismantled in the newly-acquired Czechoslovakia and then reassembled in Linz.

The Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp, located near Linz, was the last Nazi concentration camp to be liberated by the Allies. While in operation, they were the source of quarrying for stone for Hitler's prestige projects across the Reich.

The main camp in Mauthausen is just 25 kilometres (16 mi) away from Linz.

## DAY 3



### Day 3: Cesky Krumlov (47 km / 30 miles)

Cycle from the Danube river valley up into the hills that form the border of the Czech Republic and Austria. In Vyssi Brod is one of the most venerable monasteries in the Czech Republic, built in the late 13th century. Transfer by car from Vyssi Brod to Cesky Krumlov. Overnight in Cesky Krumlov.

### Cesky Krumlov

This ancient town has roots that date back as far as the Older Stone Age (70,000 - 50,000 B.C.) and has been named a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Vltava River winds its way right through the meadows of this lovely town and was once a primary means of both transportation and trade in the region. Cesky Krumlov is also home to one of the most important historical sites in Eastern Europe – the State Castle. Constructed between the 14th and 19th centuries, this incredible piece of architecture is very well preserved and in recent years was named both a National Monument and a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Monument. It is one of the largest castles in Europe and quite impressive to visit.

At the end of the 17th century, during the rule of the Eggenberg dynasty, a Baroque theater was built and the chateau garden remodeled. During the rule of the Schwarzenbergs, Krumlov received a decorative Baroque makeover. However, Český Krumlov equals more than an exceptional complex of 300 historical buildings. The town presents itself to visitors also as a hub of culture, conventions and tourism. The International Music Festival takes place annually in August, as does a festival of Renaissance music; theatrical productions are held in the castle garden, the Festival of the Five-Petalled Rose is a major summer attraction, and the Egon Schiele Center is open to visitors the year round.

### Vyšší Brod Monastery

The monastery was founded by Wok von Rosenberg in 1259. He called the Cistercians from Wilhering in Austria there. On a wish of the founder, it became the monastery of the family, and ten generations of the family were buried there. The Vyšší Brod monastery represents the most significant Czech family mausoleum with continuity from the 13th to the 17th century. Závěš of Falkenštejn (who was executed) was the first person buried in the chapter hall. One of the most significant supporters of the monastery in the 14th century was Peter I. von Rosenberg (he died in 1347), and is called the second founder of the abbey. He provided the monastery church with the panel altar, *Master of the Altar in Vyšší Brod*. An old legend says that Wok von Rosenberg came one day to Vyšší Brod and he wanted to meditate by the chapel where the Saint Anna's church is situated today. When he wanted to cross the Vltava river he fell in and was near drowning. He promised to build a monastery on the place of the chapel if somebody saved his life. The Cistercian community lives in the monastery today.



## DAY 4



### Day 4: Cesky Krumlov – Ceske Budejovice – Hluboka nad Vltavou (42 km / 26 miles)

Cesky Krumlov has an unparalleled medieval town center, and an ornate chateau and tower overlooking the town. From here cycle to Ceske Budejovice, home of the real Budweiser beer where it has been brewed for the past 700 years. Finish by cycling to Hluboka nad Vltavou. The Tudor Gothic chateau in Hluboka nad Vltavou is one of the most beautiful chateaux in Bohemia. Overnight in Hluboka nad Vltavou.

**The Chateau of Hluboká** was originally founded as a guarding castle in the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century by the Kings of Bohemia, and being royal property, it was frequently forfeited. Several aristocratic families took turns owning it. The important ones included e.g. the Lords of Pernštejn, who founded the nearby fishpond of Bezdrev in 1490, the second largest fishpond in Bohemia. The prominent aristocratic family of the Lords of Hradec purchased the domain in 1561. In 1661, Jan Adolf I of Schwarzenberg bought Hluboká from his The Schwarzenbergs lived in Hluboká until the end of 1939, when the last owner Dr. Adolf emigrated overseas to escape from the Nazis. They lost their property once for all through a special Act, Lex Schwarzenberg in 1947. Thanks to their very well-managed property and large-scale economic activities, the Schwarzenbergs twice rebuilt the chateau of Hluboká, first in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century in the Baroque style, and later, they carried out an extensive reconstruction of the chateau in the romantic neo-Gothic style. The rebuilding was influenced by the journeys of the then owner, Prince Jan Adolf II of Schwarzenberg and his spouse, to England. The main model of the project was the royal castle of Windsor.



### Budejovice

Budějovice has long been well known for the beer brewed there since the 13th century. For a time the town was the imperial brewery for the Holy Roman Emperor, and *Budweiser Bier* (beer from Budweis) became,<sup>[2]</sup> along with Plzeň's Pilsener, one of the best-known lagers. Brewing remains a major industry. The largest brewery, founded in 1895, is Pivovar Budějovický Budvar (Budweiser Budvar Brewery) which has legal rights to market its beer under the "Budweiser" brand name in much of Europe. The same product is also sold elsewhere under the names "Budvar" and "Czechvar" due to legal disagreements with Anheuser-Busch over the Budweiser brand. The American lager was originally brewed as an imitation of the famous Bohemian original, but over time has developed its own identity and attained remarkable commercial success. Anheuser-Busch has made offers to buy out the Czech brewing company in order to secure global rights to the name "Budweiser", but the Czech government has refused all such offers, regarding the Czech Budweiser name as a matter of national pride.

## DAY 5



### Day 5: Hluboka nad Vltavou – Písek (53 km / 33 miles)

Today you start out by cycling from Hluboka through Tyn nad Vltavou to the historical town of Písek. The oldest bridge in Bohemia, built in the 13th century (older than Charles Bridge in Prague), crosses the river at Písek. Overnight in Písek.

### Písek

The city was founded in the 13th century by Premysl Otakar II who started the building of a castle within the fortifications of the city. One of the main attractions of the city is the stone bridge. This bridge is the oldest still existing stone bridge in the Czech Republic. The exact building date of the bridge is unknown but it is certain that it was constructed before the Charles bridge in Prague. With its decorations of 17th century statues of saints it resembles the Charles bridge, but because of the absence of the bridge towers, it looks much less grand. From the bridge you have a perfect view over the city.

Worth a visit is the early Gothic Church of the Birth of the Virgin Mary with its 74 m. high tower. Despite the several reconstructions of the church, its frescos in the nave are very well kept through the years. The tin font and the Madonna panel on one of the alters are from the Renaissance period.

The city hall of Písek that lies at the same square as the church was built between 1737 and 1764 and is adorned with statues. In the courtyard are the remains of the castle that was burned down in 1532.



### Did you know?

The Písek Stone Bridge (*Kamenný most v Písku* in Czech) is the oldest bridge in the area of Czech Republic and one of the two oldest bridges in Central Europe. It was probably built in the 3rd quarter of the 13th century. The bridge survived the floods of 2002. Only the statues and cross on the bridge could be seen above the flood waters which removed railings and several lost statues. It is sometimes called *Stag Bridge* because, according to legend, it was to be named after the first being to pass over it. At the time, the town was surrounded by deep woods, so the first being to cross the bridge was a stag!

### Tourist information/ Infocentrum Písek

Heydukova 97 397 01

tel:(+420) 382 213 592

www: <http://www.icpisek.cz>

mail: [icpisek@icpisek.cz](mailto:icpisek@icpisek.cz)

### Rain Gear

Consult the "Suggested Packing List" for what to bring. Gortex rain gear can be expensive, but it is the most effective. With lesser quality rain gear, made of non-breathable materials, you are more likely to get wet either from the rain or under your rain gear when overheated. In long steady rains, quality rain gear will keep the wind and rain off and that will keep you warmer and dryer.



## DAY 6



### Day 6: Pisek – Pribram (69 km / 43 miles)

The highlight of this cycling day is Zvíkov Castle on a rocky hill overlooking the confluence of the Otava and Vltava rivers. It is known as the "Queen of Bohemian castles" due to its majestic position. Next stop is Castle Orlik, on Orlik Reservoir. At Vysoka u Pribrame there is the memorial to the Czech composer Dvorak. Continue on to Pribram, which has a longstanding legacy of mining. Silver, lead and other metals were mined here from the 12th Century. Overnight in Pribram.

### Zvíkov Castel

Zvíkov Castel (*Hrad Zvíkov, Klingenberg*) is often called "the queen of Bohemian castles". It is placed on a hard-to-access and steep promontory above the confluence of rivers Vltava and Otava. The castle is one of the most important early-Gothic castles in Czech lands. The current castle was built in the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, most probably on the orders of King Přemysl Otakar I, but the exact date is not known. The first written mention of the castle comes from year 1234 and was owned by the Kings of Bohemia.

The oldest part of Zvíkov is a massive prismatic residential tower named *Hlízová* with palace buildings built on its sides. During the reign of Ottokar II of Bohemia, a palace named *Královský (King's Own)* was built and this ground plan has been preserved until today. After 1473, Bohuslav of Svamberk commissioned mural decorations in the Chapel of St. Wenceslaus, which belongs to the masterpieces of early-gothic Czech architecture. The walls display the patron saints of Bohemia, the Virgin Mary the Protector, the Suffering Christ and the Martyrdom of St. Erasmus.

The castle has its own ghost, Zvíkov's imp, and has inspired several painters and writers like the theatrical comedy *Zvíkovský rarášek* by Ladislav Stroupežnický.



### Bad Weather

If the weather is not to your liking before departing on your ride, you may contact our local support or have the hotel arrange for a taxi transfer to the next hotel. If you are out on the road and the weather changes, the best solution might be to either wait it out or continue on. It is very difficult to find a taxi on the way or to send a taxi to find you on your way. In addition this may be quite expensive. Of course, in emergencies, this can be arranged for you. Also, do not count on being able to transfer with your luggage to the next hotel, as our contractors are not insured to carry passengers and are likely to refuse on such grounds.



## DAY 7



### Day 7: Pribram – Prague ( 59 km / 37 miles)

The cycle from Pribram to Prague first takes you to the town of Horovice and its Baroque chateau, and then to the Gothic castle of Karlstejn atop a wooded hill. This sturdy castle, founded by Czech King and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV, once guarded the Czech crown jewels. Overnight in Prague.

### Svatá Hora

One of the most important places of pilgrimage in Central Europe, where thousands of pilgrims come every year to venerate the Mother of God, pray to her, and thank her, Svatá Hora (Holy Mountain) - has been towering high above the old mining town of Přebram for more than 330 years. Because of its location in the center of the nation, Svatá Hora has been considered the spiritual heart of Bohemia. Svatá Hora is open from Mon-Sat 5:45 am to 6 pm, and on Sunday from 5:45 am to 4:45 pm



### Antonín Leopold Dvořák

Dvorak was a Czech composer of the late Romantic music, who employed the idioms of the folk music of Moravia and his native Bohemia. Dvořák's own style is sometimes called "romantic-classicist synthesis". His works include symphonic, choral and chamber music, concerti, operas and many of other orchestral and vocal-instrumental pieces. His best-known works include his New World Symphony, the Slavonic Dances, "American" String Quartet, the opera Rusalka, Cello Concerto in B minor and choral works Stabat Mater, Requiem, Op. 89 and Te Deum. Dvorak was born in 1841, in the Bohemian village of Nelahozeves, where he spent most of his life. His father was an innkeeper, professional player of the zither, and a butcher. Although his father wanted him to be a butcher as well, Dvořák went on to pursue a very successful future in music. He received his earliest musical education at the village school at the age of six. He wrote his first string quartet when he was twenty years old.

### Restaurant Suggestions

#### Kokovna

V Kolkovne 8  
11000 Prague  
224819701  
Www.kokovna.cz

#### La Veranda

Elisky Krasnohorske 2  
11000 Prague  
Tel: 224814733  
Www.laveranda.cz

#### Rybi trh

Tynsky dvur 5  
11000 Prague  
602295911  
Www.rybitrh.cz

### Did you know?

In August 2002 a 100-year flood caused by over a week of continuous heavy rains ravaged Europe, killing dozens, dispossessing thousands, and causing damage of billions of Euros in the Czech Republic, Austria and surrounding countries.

**The Good King Wenceslas** of "The Christmas Carol" fame was actually a prince, and the land he looked out over was the ancient territory of Bohemia. Beatified as St Wenceslas, he remains the country's patron saint.



## Prague

The capital city of the Czech Republic has played an important role in the history of its nation, state and Europe ever since its foundation in the 9th century, when Prague became the center of the Czech state, the seat of Bohemian princes and Czech kings, and was to become the official seat and residence of Czech presidents in 1918. The Prague historical center consists of remarkable structures of all building styles – Romanesque rotundas and basilicas, Gothic churches, Renaissance palaces, a large collection of buildings in the characteristic style of the Prague Baroque, as well as many Neo-Renaissance and Art Nouveau buildings. Prague offers visitors a little bit of everything, from quaint, historic towns to architectural masterpieces to relaxing spas. At the very center of the city stands the impressive Prague castle, which holds the record for the largest castle area in the world. Another incredible site is the Charles Bridge, a Gothic structure made from stone which connects the Old Town with Malá Strana. New Town is Prague's main commercial district; however, belying its name, the area was actually constructed over 600 years ago. It contains a multitude of museums, theatres and plenty of shops to browse through. Another lovely place to cycle through is the beautiful residential area known as Vinohrady. With incredible architecture, brightly colored homes and glorious landscapes filled with gardens and orchards, there is certainly plenty to see and enjoy there.



### Historic Center of Prague UNESCO World Heritage Site

Built between the 11th and 18th centuries, the Old Town, the Lesser Town, and the New Town speak of the great architectural and cultural influence enjoyed by this city since the Middle Ages. There are many magnificent monuments, such as Hradcany Castle, St Vitus Cathedral, Charles Bridge and numerous churches and palaces, built mostly in the 14th century under the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles IV.

The Historic Centre represents a supreme manifestation of Medieval urbanism (the New Town of Emperor Charles IV was built as the New Jerusalem). Prague represents one of the most prominent world centers of creative life in the field of urbanism and architecture across generations, human mentality and beliefs.

## DAY 8



**Day 8: Departure Day.** Depart at your leisure, but before leaving the region, take some time to enjoy Prague. Prague is the “city of a thousand spires”. The Charles Bridge, the Old Town square and Prague Castle, the largest castle complex in Europe, are great places to visit.

## Regional Recipes - A typical dish...



### Original Czech Beef Goulash

3-4 servings  
2 hours 20 min prep

1 1/2 lbs beef, cut into cubes  
(can also use 1/2 pound beef, 1/2 pound pork, and 1/2 veal)  
2 tablespoons oil or fat  
1 large onion, diced  
1/2 green pepper, coarsely chopped  
2 tablespoons paprika (to taste)  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
1/2 cup water

Heat oil in a heavy skillet. Add onion and cook over low heat until lightly yellowed. Add paprika and blend well. Add meat, green pepper, salt, and water.  
Cover and simmer until meat is tender, about 1 1/2 hours. Add more water if desired, although mixture should not be overly soupy when finished cooking. Serve over hot boiled potatoes or topped with dumplings.