



University of Illinois
Alumni Association

 **Duration**
9 days

 **Activity Level**
Moderate

 **Journey Type**
Land
River



Bohemian Wonders

September 25 – October 4, 2026

Starting from \$6,045/pp

Embark on a captivating journey through the Czech Republic's cultural and historical heart on this enriching land and river program! Begin with two nights in enchanting Prague, followed by a six-night cruise along Czechia's scenic Vltava River. Visit noble Bohemian castles, see stunning Gothic, Renaissance and baroque architectural gems, and spend a day exploring the treasures of Dresden, Germany. Plus, enjoy wine and local beer tastings, meals i...



Day-by-Day Itinerary

Bohemian Wonders | A River Cruise in the Czech Republic

Air Program – 10 days/ 9 nights (includes 1 air night) Land/Cruise Program – 9 days/ 8 nights

Breakfasts – 8 Lunches – 4 Dinners – 6 Receptions – 3

B | L | R | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches, receptions and dinners.

A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land & Cruise Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land & Cruise Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.

Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands. Excursions on this program require: walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces; and getting on/off the river ship and motor coaches.

Mild – Walk under 1 mile on mainly flat terrain; navigate under 50 stairs; stand under 1 hour

Moderate – Walk 1–3 miles on flat/uneven terrain; navigate 50–100 stairs; stand 1–2 hours

Active – Walk 2+ miles on flat/uneven terrain, including up and down inclines; navigate 100+ stairs; stand 3+ hours

Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Prague, Czech Republic. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: PRG.

Day 2 | Prague, Czech Republic

Art Deco Imperial Hotel

R

Arrive at Václav Havel Airport Prague. Proceed through immigration to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land/Cruise Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the designated meeting spot, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The meeting location will be provided with your final documents.

Transfer to the first-class Art Deco Imperial Hotel. Please note, if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

Welcome Reception. Meet and mingle with your fellow travelers at this evening's Welcome Reception, including canapés, at the hotel.

Afterward, seek out one of Prague's many cafés or restaurants, ranging from traditional Czech to diverse international cuisines, on your own. Your AHI Travel Director will be available to offer suggestions.

Day 3 | Prague

Art Deco Imperial Hotel

B

Breakfast will be served at the hotel each morning.

Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, has a rich history dating back over a thousand years. Founded in the 9th century, it became the seat of Bohemian kings and later the capital of the Holy Roman Empire under Charles IV in the 14th century. The city flourished during the Renaissance and baroque periods but faced upheavals during the Thirty Years' War and later under Habsburg rule. In the 20th century, Prague experienced both Nazi occupation and communist rule before the Velvet Revolution in 1989 restored democracy.

Enrichment: The Velvet Revolution. During a morning lecture, gain insight into the Velvet Revolution, a pivotal event that led to the end of communism in Czechoslovakia and preceded the country's split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Prague Walking Tour. Depart the hotel on a guided walk through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Historic Centre of Prague, heading toward the Old Town Square, which was once a major marketplace and political hub in medieval Bohemia. As you stroll, admire the colorful baroque and Gothic-style buildings and churches surrounding the square, and the Church of Our Lady of Týn's twin spires rising above the city skyline. Stop at the Astronomical Clock, installed in 1410 and the world's oldest working astronomical clock. You'll be mesmerized by the hourly "Walk of the Apostles," dating to the 15th century, a captivating procession of 12 wooden apostle figures appearing in the clock's two small windows. At the end of the display, a golden rooster crows and the bells chime, marking the hour. (Moderate)

Free Time: Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure in Prague, including lunch and dinner on your own. Your AHI Travel Director will be available to assist with sightseeing and restaurant recommendations.

Day 4 | Prague / Karlovy Vary or eský Krumlov | Day 1 of Cruise

MS Elbe Princesse

B | R | D

After breakfast, set out on your chosen excursion below.

PYJ | Personalize Your Journey | Choose ONE of the following excursions and return the included PYJ Reservation Form with your selection by the deadline noted on the form.

- Karlovy Vary Historic Tour. Discover the renowned spa town of Karlovy Vary on a historic walking tour of the town center, dating to the 14th century. You'll see the VYídlo Geyser, the largest and hottest thermal spring in Karlovy Vary, erupting water at temperatures of around 163°F and spouting up to 39 feet high. The geyser is a key feature of the town's famous spa culture, and its mineral-rich waters are believed to have healing properties. Then, you'll take a funicular ride up to Friendship Hill and the Diana Observation Tower to witness beautiful panoramic views of Karlovy Vary, the Teplá River valley, lush forests, rolling hills, distant mountain ranges and the famous, luxurious Grandhotel Pupp, founded in 1701 and used for a filming location in movies such as "Casino Royale" and "Last Holiday." After the tour, enjoy some leisure time for lunch on your own and independent exploration. (Moderate)
- eský Krumlov City Tour. Explore one of Bohemia's prettiest towns, nestled in South Bohemia along a tight curve in the Vltava River. It is one of the most enchanting destinations in the Czech Republic, with the Vltava River meandering through its heart and medieval cobblestone streets lined with cozy cafés, traditional Czech restaurants and craft shops. On a walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Historic Centre of eský Krumlov, marvel at the spectacular ensemble of Gothic, Renaissance and baroque-style buildings, including the 18th-century Plague Column and the Renaissance- and baroque-style eský Krumlov Castle, dating to 1253. After the tour, enjoy some time at leisure for lunch on your own and independent exploration. You may want to dine in a medieval-style tavern that features Czech dishes like roast pork, dumplings, and goulash. (Moderate)

This afternoon, transfer to the pier in Prague for embarkation on the first-class MS Elbe Princesse river ship. Your Travel Director will provide the details.

Welcome Reception & Dinner. After settling into your cabin, join your fellow travelers to kick off your Bohemian cruise at a festive Welcome Reception and Dinner aboard the ship tonight.

Savor a delicious dinner every night aboard the Elbe Princesse, followed by evening entertainment.

Day 5 | Cruise the Vltava River /Slapy Dam / Št chovice | Benešov | Št chovice

B | L | D

Enjoy a full breakfast every morning aboard the Elbe Princesse.

Begin cruising the Vltava River this morning, gliding past Bohemia's picturesque countryside and the Slapy Dam. After lunch on board, the ship will arrive in Št chovice.

Konopišt Castle. This afternoon, you'll disembark the ship in Št chovice to visit the 13th-century Konopišt Castle, once the House of Habsburg's hunting lodge and an example of French-influenced fortification architecture. Enjoy a guided tour to glimpse the lavish lifestyle of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, whose assassination in 1914 sparked World War I. Admire the castle's

grand entrance and the surrounding picturesque gardens and parklands. Inside, marvel at the opulent rooms filled with original furniture, elaborate tapestries and intricate woodwork. You'll be awed by Ferdinand's extensive collection of hunting trophies, one of the largest in Europe — showcasing over 4,000 mounted animals from his hunts — and the impressive display of medieval and Renaissance-era armor and swords. (Moderate)

Return to the ship to relax and recharge before dinner on board this evening.

Free Time: After dinner, you can remain aboard the ship and enjoy the evening entertainment or venture out to the small village of Št chovice to soak up the market town's charming, old-Bohemian ambience.

The ship overnights in Št chovice.

Day 6 | Št chovice / Prague

MS Elbe Princesse

B | L | D

The ship arrives in Prague this morning.

Prague Castle & St. Vitus Cathedral. Begin a guided tour of the largest ancient castle complex in the world, spanning approximately 70,000 acres, and the seat of Czech rulers since the 9th century. Admire the Castle Square gate, or Matthias Gate, a richly adorned baroque entrance with sculptures of wrestling Titans, coats of arms and rich stonework details. See the Castle Gallery, home to works of art from the 16th to 18th centuries, and stroll down the cobblestone 16th-century Golden Lane within the castle grounds to delight in the tiny, charming, colorful cottages built into the castle's fortifications. Walk down the Old Castle steps and pass by the Old Royal Palace, a stunning late-Gothic period hall built in the 15th century by Vladislav II Jagiello, featuring massive windows, including the Defenestration Window, where Protestant nobles threw Catholic officials out of the window in 1618, sparking the Thirty Years' War. The palace was once used for royal banquets, coronations, and even jousting tournaments.

Then, enjoy an inside visit to St. Vitus Cathedral, the crown jewel of Prague Castle and a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. With a history spanning more than 600 years, the cathedral was the traditional site for the coronation of Czech kings and queens. As you enter, take note of the 14th-century mosaic above the cathedral's entrance that depicts "The Last Judgement." Then, be awed by the grand interior, featuring soaring ribbed vaults, massive stone columns, a central nave lined with tall, slender pillars and intricate stained-glass windows. The most famous is the Alphonse Mucha-designed window, a brilliant art nouveau masterpiece depicting Cyril and Methodius. The cathedral also houses the tombs of Czech kings and Holy Roman Emperors, including Charles V and Rudolf II. (Moderate)

Relax over lunch together at a café inside the castle.

Prague's Historic Jewish Quarter . This afternoon, set out on a guided walk to explore Josefov, Prague's historic Jewish Quarter. You'll visit the Prague Jewish Museum, which offers an insightful exploration of Jewish life in Bohemia and Moravia over the centuries. The museum is unique because it is not housed in a single building but spread across several historical sites within Josefov. Together, these sites provide a comprehensive, immersive understanding of the Jewish community's history, culture and heritage in Prague and the Czech lands. Visit the Old Synagogue for a glimpse into Jewish religious life in Prague and the Old Jewish Cemetery, one of the world's oldest surviving Jewish cemeteries. Here, layers of graves are stacked atop one another with about 12,000 tombstones, some dating to the 15th century. Prague's Jewish Quarter and the Jewish Museum preserve the legacy of one of Europe's most significant Jewish communities. (Moderate)

Return to the ship, now docked in Prague. Relax and relish dinner after your enriching and full day!

The ship overnights in Prague.

Day 7 | Prague / Cruise the Vltava River / Kralupy / Nelahozeves | M Iník

MS Elbe Princesse

B | L | D

The ship departs Prague for a morning of scenic cruising on the Vltava River to Kralupy. After lunch on board, disembark the ship for today's discovery of a noble Bohemian family's lavish lifestyle.

Nelahozeves Castle. Visit one of Bohemia's finest Renaissance castles, once home to 23 Bohemian queens and princesses, and renowned for its stunning architecture, rich art collections and historical significance. The 16th-century castle overlooks the Vltava River and is often compared to an Italian Renaissance villa due to its elegant design. Nelahozeves Castle is a national treasure that has survived wars and political changes while remaining a symbol of Czech nobility. The exterior features a grand arcaded courtyard and a façade with scenes depicting mythological and biblical themes; it was created using an intricate sgraffito decorative technique.

Inside the castle, admire the lavish period furnishings, tapestries, artwork and artifacts providing a glimpse into the aristocratic, baroque-period lifestyle of Bohemia's oldest, most eminent and noble Lobkowitz family, the castle's longtime owners. Highlights include the Knight's Hall, the Grand Dining Room and the Music Room. The castle houses part of the Lobkowitz family's private collection, including rare manuscripts, historical books, antique furniture, porcelain, musical instruments and paintings by European Old Masters such as Rubens and Velázquez.

During your tour, delight in a special presentation by the Castle Curator, who will offer engaging commentary on the historical books of the Lobkowitz Archive. You'll also be awed by a viewing of an 8th-century Gospel manuscript, the oldest book in the collection. Afterward, visit the birthplace of prominent Romantic-era Czech composer Antonín Dvořák on the castle grounds; he was the first Bohemian composer to achieve worldwide recognition. Cap off the tour with a tasting of wines from the castle's vineyards. (Moderate)

Return to the ship and enjoy the amenities as you cruise for M Iník and relish dinner tonight.

Take in the stunning views as the ship arrives in M Iník at the confluence of the Vltava and Elbe rivers. Look up to see the Renaissance-style M Iník Château perched on the hill, with rolling vineyards descending the slopes to the river.

Free Time: After dinner, head into M Iník to meander through the historic Town Square, brimming with traditional Czech buildings, including the Town Hall, restaurants, cafés and shops.

The ship overnights in M Iník.

Day 8 | M Iník / Dresden, Germany | Kralupy, Czech Republic

MS Elbe Princesse

B | D

Savor breakfast and admire the views as the ship cruises for Kralupy, where you will disembark and drive to Dresden. Dresden, the capital of Saxony, is often called the "Florence on the Elbe" due to its stunning baroque architecture, rich cultural heritage and artistic treasures. Despite being heavily bombed in World War II, the city has undergone remarkable reconstruction to preserve its historical and artistic significance.

Dresden City Tour. Begin your Dresden discovery on a panoramic coach tour of the city's treasures. Admire historic castles across the Elbe River and the landmark Blue Wonder cantilever truss bridge, an iron-fitted bridge monument. Drive through the exclusive Weisser Hirsch neighborhood, known for its historic spa culture, luxurious historic villas and picturesque natural beauty. Pass through the Albertplatz, a public square in Dresden's Neustadt, or new town, to take in the mix of history and modernity and see the Still Waters and Stormy Waves fountains. Drive by the Königstraße, King's Street, an elegant street in Dresden's baroque quarter, featuring 18th-century architecture, galleries, boutiques and restaurants.

Arrive at the Theaterplatz square, in the Altstadt, old town, and begin a guided walking tour of the historic royal district. Marvel at Dresden Zwinger Palace, a renowned complex of baroque pavilions and galleries that embody the spirit of 18th-century Saxon opulence. You'll also be awed by the Hotel Taschenbergpalais Kempinski Dresden, which showcases the grandeur of Saxon baroque architecture, and the Dresden Royal Palace, an imposing yet elegant reminder of Saxony's golden age when Saxon princes, dukes and kings from the 15th century until 1918 resided here. Stroll past the Royal Catholic Cathedral, Saxony's largest church, built between 1739 and 1755 in the baroque style, symbolizing religious power and the resting place of Saxon kings. Stop at the Frauenkirche, Church of Our Lady, to appreciate the spectacular 331-foot porcelain mural, "Procession of the Dukes," depicting a parade of Saxon rulers from the House of Wettin. (Moderate)

Old Masters Gallery or Zwinger Palace. Next, you will visit either the Old Masters Gallery in the Zwinger Palace, known for its baroque and Renaissance art; or you will visit the Green Vault in the Dresden Royal Palace, an opulent treasure chamber filled with gold, jewels and historical artifacts. (Moderate)

Free Time: After the tour, relish time at leisure in Dresden for lunch on your own and further exploration of this fascinating city.

Transfer to the ship, now docked in Kralupy, to relax before dinner this evening.

Free Time: After dinner, enjoy on-board entertainment or venture out to discover the town of Kralupy on your own.

Day 9 | Kralupy / Litom Yice | Cruise for Prague

MS Elbe Princesse

B | L | D

Disembark the ship this morning and drive by coach to one of Bohemia's oldest cities, Litom Yice, established in the 10th century on the site of an 8th-century Slavic fortress near the confluence of the Elbe and OhYe rivers. In 1219, King Ottokar granted Litom Yice royal-town status, and by the beginning of the 13th century, it was an important political, cultural and economic center.

Litom Yice Walking Tour. Arrive and set out on a guided walk of the historic old town, bordered by 5,900 feet of the well-preserved, original town walls and brimming with colorful baroque, Gothic and Renaissance architecture. Admire arcaded townhouses and historic buildings, including the Old Town Hall. As the seat of a Catholic bishopric since 1655, Litom Yice boasts an ecclesiastical district, with the majestic St. Stephen's Cathedral and its adjacent bishop's residence at its heart. (Moderate)

AHI Connects | Czech Brewery Visit & Tasting: After your walking tour, immerse yourself in Czechia's beer culture while visiting a small craft brewery. The Czech Republic has a deep-rooted brewing tradition dating back over 1,000 years. It is also the birthplace of the world's first Pilsner, brewed in 1842. Learn about the Czechian triple decoction mash, a unique labor-intensive brewing method that enhances flavor and body, and the high-quality ingredients that result in a delicate, earthy bitterness. Relish tastings of Czech beers during your visit! (Mild)

Return to the ship for lunch and relaxation during an afternoon of cruising for Prague.

Farewell Reception & Dinner. Raise a toast to your Bohemian adventure at tonight's Farewell Reception and Dinner aboard the ship.

Day 10 | Depart for gateway city

B

After breakfast, disembark the ship in Prague and bid farewell to enchanting Bohemia.

AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land/Cruise Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for Václav Havel Airport Prague (Prague International Airport) for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

What's Included

Program Overview

- 2 nights in Prague, Czech Republic, at the first-class Art Deco Imperial Hotel.
- 6 nights aboard the exclusively chartered, first-class MS Elbe Princesse.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 receptions and 6 dinners.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions and Dinners to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic cuisine and local flavors.

On-site Features

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program with baggage handling.
- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Personalize Your Journey | PYJ: A choice of excursions in selected locales.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.

FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

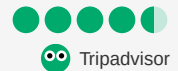
Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

Art Deco Imperial Hotel

The landmark Art Deco Imperial Hotel is located in the center of Prague and is included in Prague's register of historic buildings. Considered one of the most beautiful restaurants in Prague, the hotel's richly decorated Imperial Café provides all-day dining and a menu inspired by continental and Czech cuisine. For an aperitif or after-dinner drink, delight in the Prime Bar. The hotel features concierge service and a well-equipped health club and spa. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



MS Elbe Princesse

The MS Elbe Princesse is a stylish and intimate paddlewheel river cruise ship designed for exploring Bohemia's scenic rivers. Enjoy personalized service and panoramic views from spacious cabins, savor gourmet French and international cuisine, and relax in the inviting lounge bar. Discover the charm of Central Europe in style and comfort aboard this unique river cruise ship.



Pricing

Category/Deck	Base Price / You Pay
A-Upper	\$7,045
B-Main Deck (WAIT LIST)	\$6,045

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; US government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is \$750.00 per person. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. To view Program Terms and Conditions, close this window and scroll to the bottom of the page.

** Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 120+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.

