


CZECH AUSTRIA- PRAGUE TO VIENNA



Fresh Eire Adventures

BIKE TOUR

CZECH GERMANY AUSTRIA PRAGUE TO VIENNA



Enjoy our easy, fully supported bike tour on riverside paths and through Sumava National Park, and UNESCO town of Czesky Krumlov with local guides. Bikes, hotels, and most meals are included.

Our 6 night / 7 day bike trip from Prague to Vienna takes in three countries; Czech Republic, Germany and Austria. We ride along some of the most scenic routes in the region following the path of the rivers Danube and Inn, taking in the very best of the region's rich culture, fabulous UNESCO towns and Baroque architecture. Savour typical foods and delicious beers & wines and look forward to kayaking in medieval settings assured in the knowledge that your Fresh Eire team will be taking care of every small detail so you can truly switch off, relax and pedal on! As with most of our tours, we include 4 dinners with wine/beer (one dinner on your own), 4 lunches (with wine/beer), all tastings, all included attractions (castle visits, museums & galleries), full van support, snacks...all the usual trimmings and a few extras along the way. You will have two guides on this trip; one of whom is guaranteed to be a local bilingual guide. We have designed an action packed itinerary of the best biking, water sports, fabulous cultural inclusions, authentic hotels and gorgeous gourmet wineries, restaurants, pubs and bistros. We will see you in Prague!





Day 1, Sunday

Your Fresh Eire Adventures craic commando team will meet you in Prague at 9 am where we'll begin a walking tour of the Prague, the capital city of Czech Republic. Known as "the City of a Hundred Spires," the heart of Prague is its Old Town Square, with its Gothic cathedrals, colorful baroque buildings, and the medieval Astronomical Clock, which delivers an animated show every hour. Circa 1402, the impressive pedestrian Charles Bridge is lined with statues of Catholic saints as it overlooks the Danube River. We'll catch a 3-hour train to Ceske Budejovice and ride via Holasovice to the quaint, medieval UNESCO heritage town of Cesky Krumlov. While being fitted to your bike, we'll have a picnic lunch. After a review of bicycling safety, we'll introduce you to your bikes (Trek FX 7.2 hybrids or Cube Peloton road bikes – or similar), show you how to change gears and use the brakes (please, humour us – it's always best to go over everything as every bike is different), and make some micro adjustments to ensure a comfortable ride for the week ahead and then we'll set off.

On this first day, we'll take a point-to-point ride from Ceske Budejovice to Cesky Krumlov (via Holasovice), where we'll arrive at our first hotel of the trip; the beautiful, bohemian Hotel Bellevue where we'll stay for two nights. You'll have ample time to relax and change before dinner, and we'll meet for a pre-dinner beer or wine tasting around 7.30 pm before enjoying an authentic local gourmet meal.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner Classic

Hotel: Hotel Bellevue (4 star)

Deluxe Hotel: Hotel Bellevue (4 star)



Day 2, Monday

After breakfast at our hotel (served from 8 am), we'll meet in the lobby and have a brief meeting discussing the day's route and highlights. This morning we'll cycle through the quiet countryside toward Plav, a quaint small Bohemian village on the banks of a river. After a delicious lunch, we will tour the Český Krumlov Castle and Rosenberg family chateau in the afternoon. Dating back to 1240, the monumental castle was built by the Witigonen family, the main branch of the powerful Rosenberg family, and houses the breathtaking Český Krumlov Baroque Theatre. Situated on the Vth Castle Courtyard, the theatre is one of the most completely preserved Baroque theatres in the world.

"The Baroque Theater at the Český Krumlov castle is a gem in the crown of theater heritage on our planet". - Professor Peter Perina

Later this afternoon we will kayak around the town of Cesky Krumlov before returning to our hotel. We'll meet for dinner at 8pm and enjoy another wonderful authentic meal together at a fabulous local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Classic Hotel: Hotel Bellevue (4 star)

Deluxe Hotel: Hotel Bellevue (4 star)

Day 3, Tuesday

After breakfast at our hotel (served from 8 am), we'll meet in the lobby and have a brief meeting discussing the day's route and highlights. Please make sure your luggage is ready for transportation (and please look under the bed to make sure your favourite pair of socks has been packed) following breakfast. Please leave your bags packed inside your rooms and we'll take care of your luggage ensuring it will be collected and taken to our second hotel in Passau. We will set off at 9am on our bikes. Today's ride is one of the longest of this tour - 50 miles, but don't fret as it's also a smooth and scenic ride through the majestic Bohemian Forest (known in Czech as Šumava and in German as Böhmerwald) - the most far-reaching forest landscape in Europe called the "Green Roof of Europe." We'll also cycle through and the extinct village of Nove Udoli at the Czech-Bavaria border before stopping for lunch at a Bavarian Beer Garden - Prost!

After a festive feasting of beer and traditional Bavarian cuisine (Knödel, Schweinshaxn, Obatzder, savory sauerkraut), we'll weave along the Three Rivers (Danube, Inn, Ilz) Known as the Three Rivers City, Passau lies at the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz rivers. The city is overlooked by the 13th-century Veste Oberhaus, a hilltop fortress housing an observation tower and a museum. The old town below is known for its romantic squares and promenades, beautiful bridges and baroque architecture, including St. Stephan's Cathedral. Once in Passau, the group will check in at the contemporary delight that is the Dormero Hotel where you'll stay for two nights. Upon checking in, as usual, you'll find your luggage has been sent to your respective rooms and on this day you'll have at least an hour and a half before we meet up for dinner in a central Passau restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Classic Hotel: Dormero Hotel (4 star)
Deluxe Hotel: Dormero Hotel (4 star)



Day 4, Wednesday

Our fourth day takes us along the Inn River on a 35-mile loop, following the Germany / Austria border. We'll stop in Schärding, a northern Austrian state of Upper Austria, and a major port on the Inn River. Historically, it was owned by the Bavarian family Wittelsbach until 1779, which reflects in the town's colorful central square and gabled-roof houses. Today, you will be free for lunch, but we will make several recommendations. We'll stop and explore the magnificent Neuburg fortress before returning to Passau, where you'll have the option to visit the 13th-century St. Stephan's Cathedral, which houses the largest cathedral organ in the world with 17,974 pipes.

Meals: Breakfast

Classic Hotel: Dormero Hotel (4 star)

Deluxe Hotel: Dormero Hotel (4 star)



Day 5, Thursday

This morning is another moving day. After a traditional breakfast (more regional pastries – eat early, eat often!), you'll have the option to uncover the wide variety of exciting water sports offered on the Danube River (kayaking or rafting), before setting off on our point-to-point ride through the historic rural villages of Schlögen, Aschach, and Ottensheim in Upper Austria. We'll then wind along the Danube waterway for some delicious wine tasting in the Wachau Valley, a UNESCO heritage site that lies in the Danube valley between the towns of Melk and Krems. The lovely landscape of rich, rocky riverbanks and rolling hills of terraced vines, produces some of the best white wine in the world (aka "liquid gold") with decades of aging potential. The region is particularly known for its complex and fruity Riesling and expressive Grüner Veltliner, the most important autochthonous grape variety in Austria.

We will transfer you to the small market town of Weissenkirchen, which means "white church," named after the 14th Century Gothic fortified church that overlooks the picturesque foothills of the plateau and charming courtyards. Tonight, you'll be free to explore the village, including the 10th century St. Michael's Church, one of the oldest churches and few remaining Romanesque buildings in Austria, before enjoying dinner on your own.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Classic Hotel: Weissenkirchen (4 star)

Deluxe Hotel: Weissenkirchen (4 star)

Day 6, Friday

Our sixth day's ride sees us look along the Wachau Valley for 35-mile with an optional visit to the beautiful Benedictine Abbey in the town of Melk, and a ride along the Danube to Spitz, Durnstein. Tonight our final dinner together will be at our beautiful and authentic hotel. We'll toast our week together with a selection of wine from the extensive wine list which features some familiar bottles and regions from where Fresh Eire Adventures offers other wonderful tours. Bon Appétit and Prost!

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Classic Hotel: Weissenkirchen (4 star)

Deluxe Hotel: Weissenkirchen (4 star)



Day 7, Saturday

This morning at approximately 8.30am, after breakfast, we'll bike 15 miles before being transferred to the artistically grand capital city of Vienna. We will then end our journey with a lovely walking tour of the city's Baroque streetscapes, imperial palaces, historic cathedrals and musical masterpieces.

While our trip ends here before lunch, we'll ensure your luggage is transferred to your Vienna hotel or stored at the train station so you can enjoy this stunning city unencumbered. Pedal on!

Included Meals: Breakfast



"EDUCATION IS A CONTINUAL PROCESS, IT'S LIKE A BICYCLE... IF YOU DON'T PEDAL YOU DON'T GO FORWARD."

George Weah

CZECH - GERMANY - AUSTRIA PRAGUE TO VIENNA



Included Prague to Vienna

- Use of 2015 or 2016 Trek FX 7.2 Hybrid bike, Bell or Giro Helmet, rear-mounted carrier bag, route notes & maps
- Fresh Eire Adventures water bottle
- Transfer from Prague centre on start day
- Transfer to Vienna centre on end day
- 4 exquisite dinners & wine
- 4 gourmet lunches & wines
- Admissions to all included attractions & tastings
- Baggage transfers
- Tips for hotels/restaurants
- Healthy snacks, water, full guiding services, support vehicle.
- 5 nights B&B in 3 star hotels (Classic) & 4 star hotels (Luxury), with continental breakfast

Extras Prague to Vienna

- Upgrade to a Cube Peloton Race (or similar) alu-road bike (available at extra cost).
- Upgrade to an electric hybrid bike if you think the hills might be too much for you but you want to bike all the way (available at extra cost)
- Self-Guided Extension packages available in Prague or Vienna (3 nights, 4 star from \$1295 pps)
- Guided Extension packages available in Prague (3 nights, 2 days Guided Tour, 1 free day from \$1595pps)
- Gratuities for Guides

Fresh Eire Adventures

Hobartstown

Castledermot

Co. Kildare R14 F243

Ireland

+353 (0) 87 6169798

www.fresheireadventures.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I contact Fresh Eire Adventures?

You can reach us through our CONTACT PAGE on our website, by phone, Skype, email or even snail mail! We're also available through our social media pages; Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Do I need to be very fit to enjoy a Fresh Eire Adventures tour?

Not at all! This is not bootcamp - this is an active vacation! We offer a wide variety of tours to suit all abilities. Most of our tours can be easily adapted to facilitate more energetic riders as well as novices; our expert local knowledge and resourceful guides know when to add in an extra loop ride or climb to satisfy even the most athletic of riders on our easiest tours. We also offer electric-assist bikes. If you are used to staying fit through enjoying walking, cycling, golfing or any other light aerobic activity then you'll be in fine fettle for our trips. You always have options with Fresh Eire Adventures; bike only part of the day, take a shuttle ride back to the hotel pool for a Margarita; you set the pace, not us! Remember the support vehicle is always nearby and the guide on the bike is always in touch with the driver.

What should I pack for a Fresh Eire Adventures tour?

We encourage our guests to approach packing with care. Airlines charge more for checked luggage now than ever before so it might be sensible to try travel with carry on luggage only. We have a comprehensive Bike Tour Packing list in our Blogs.

Which kind of tours does Fresh Eire Adventures offer? Are they fully guided?

We offer a boutique bike tour experience; small groups (8 people or less typically) to ensure the best customer service and attention to detail in the industry, beautifully curated hotels (two categories; Classic 3 & 4 star properties and Deluxe 4 & 5 star properties) and outstanding meals including top quality wines, beers and soft drinks. We strive for authenticity in every experience.

All our scheduled tours are fully guided and supported by expert local guides who have the knowledge, expertise and training to ensure your trip is flawless. While we can facilitate self-guided requests we specialise in sharing our local knowledge and introducing our guests to local contacts and our friends.

Remember the support vehicle is there to offer fresh water, offer local tastings, to repair the rare puncture (we haven't had a puncture since 2015), carry your sweater if it gets warm, pick up your purchases should you indulge in some shopping at a winery or a market, as well as offering some respite from the occasional drizzle or searing heat. The van is there to sweep; go from the front to the back of the group checking in with our riders at all times and, on smaller roads, positions itself at strategic rendezvous points to check in with guests. The van is also used for setting up tastings, picnics. On a guided tour you have the assurance of knowing your guides are only a phone call away at worst, a shoulder tap at best.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is a typical Fresh Eire Adventures guest?

Fresh Eire Adventures attracts guests from all walks of life; from teachers and CEOs, lawyers and doctors, students to retirees. While over 90% of our guests are from North America we are seeing an increasing number of guests from Brazil and Australia. While some of our guests are new to bike tours, we see over 85% of our guests return for another Fresh Eire Adventure within 2 years. We have several guests who have booked every year with us since we began operations. Another 40% of our guests are referred to us by their friends and colleagues.

Typically our guests have an average age of 60 years, are moderately fit, are interested in food, wine, culture, history and are seeking an active, authentic vacation with an independently owned and run boutique outfit knowing that they are supporting local industry and small business.

At Fresh Eire Adventures we have been charmed by guests as old as 18 months to Silver Cyclists as young as 82. We do not age-discriminate; we ran a tour once for a lady whose trip was cancelled by her first choice operator; they chose to “not run the tour” after she revealed her age.

We appeal to singles, couples and families. We have run multi-generational family trips, themed Mother & Daughter / Father & Son trips, gay interest trips, Jewish heritage trips, literary interest trips, Genealogy trips, College Reunions trips, Corporate trips, and even Biking & Sailing trips. We are very flexible and open to suggestion - let us know what your dream trip would be and we'll do our very best to make it happen.

What experience do you have with guided bike tours?

Padraic, the founder and Managing Director of Fresh Eire Adventures, has been biking since he was a child. In the early 2000s, while a law student, he went to work for an American bike tour company as a guide and saw many ways in which the bike tour experience could be improved upon. He then went on to work with four other bike tour companies lending his expertise and know-how but saw that he needed to start his own company to offer guests true authenticity and unparalleled excellence. Padraic is very “hands on” and, when he is not in the office, he is found on nearly every bike trip ensuring guest experience is of the highest quality and guest expectation is exceeded. Local guides are trained to very high standards.

Does Fresh Eire Adventures accept kids on tour?

Yes! We encourage families with children under the age of 15 to consider a Family Tour; we adapt one of our regular tours and ensure that all activities are family friendly with less of a focus on late dinners, wine tours and instead offer multi activity features like movie nights, canoeing, falconry, water sports, high ropes courses, zip-lining, kayaking, fencing lessons, language lessons, art classes. We have all the required equipment; from child seats for the vehicles and bikes. tag-along bikes, bike trailers, kids helmets etc. We also can provide nanny services and babysitters. We also offer substantial discounts to families with small children especially where the parents are sharing family rooms and family suites with their children.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does Fresh Eire Adventures accept pets on tour?

We love pets at Fresh Eire Adventures. However, we can only accept pets on a private tour from our Bespoke programme - we very carefully consider your requirements and only reserve properties who accept pets, and we also have a pet sitter at your disposal to take excellent care of your pet while you enjoy our outstanding tour features. Unfortunately, we cannot accept pets on a scheduled, public bike tour owing to safety concerns, potential allergies of other guests and hotel policies. Sorry.

Which kind of documents are required for international travel? Do I need a Visa?

Every passenger should travel with a valid in date passport with an expiry date no sooner than 6 months from the date of the tour departure. It's a good idea to scan a copy of this and email it to yourself. Each country has different visa requirements so we advise our guests to check with the Embassy or Consulate of the country in which your bike tour is being run.

Why should I book a Fresh Eire Adventures tour and not one with another company?

We offer small groups, excellent customer service, stunning locations, carefully curated hotels and restaurants, a boutique experience and an unparalleled authenticity at a fair price (much lower than our competitors). Plus we offer wines with our meals; good wines, carefully paired. As a small operator we get to know all our guests preferences and frequently match up like-minded couples, singles and groups so they arrive on tour as adventurers and leave as life-long friends determined to ride together in a new destination the next year (and the year after that, and the year after that).

What's the difference between your Classic & Deluxe tours?

The only difference lies in the category of hotel. Classic offers 3 & 4 star properties while Deluxe offers 4 & 5 star properties. On most of our tours we can offer both Classic and Deluxe levels even on the same departure dates. Frequently we use the same hotels for both Classic and Deluxe tours; the difference then lies only in the room category.

We would like to do one of your tours but the dates are not corresponding to our availabilities; is it possible to request an unpublished date?

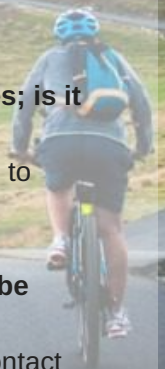
Yes, we can offer tours on most dates. Please contact us and let us know the destination you'd like to visit and on which date and we'll do our very best to run a trip for you.

We would like to do one of your tours but we don't know exactly which one; is it possible to be advised?

Of course. Please contact us to discuss your interests and we shall have one of our expert team contact you.

Is it possible to do a longer trip?

Yes. We offer organised trip extensions in exciting destinations to maximise your vacation time. We can also extend trips beyond the typical 5 nights / 6 days. We're very flexible in our approach.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I reserve a trip?

Unlike other bike tour companies we want to make sure that before committing to a bike trip, which we recognise as a considerable expense, you are purchasing the trip which is right for you. We communicate directly with our potential guests to make sure they are fully informed before signing on the dotted line.

While it has never happened on a Fresh Eire Adventure, it is Padraic's experience that where someone is having a below par trip it is frequently the case that they have been misinformed about the nuances of taking a bike trip in the first instance. This is why it is paramount that we communicate effectively and honestly with all our potential guests even if this means not getting the sale.

To book a tour, get in touch by email or through the Contact page and let us know if you'd like us to schedule a call, or we can answer any questions you might have through email. We also now have an Instant chat facility on our website.

Do you offer group discounts?

Yes. Any group booking of 6 persons or more qualifies for a group discount. With a group size of 8 we can make the trip private at no extra cost and remove it from general sale.

What is included in the price of my Fresh Eire Adventures cycling tour?

We offer unparalleled customer service, authentic experiences, top quality bicycles, exquisite meals, excellent wines, carefully curated hotels, all included itinerary visits and a boutique experience which ensures your Fresh Eire Adventures vacation is memorable for all the right reasons.

What is not included?

Very little; typically we allow for one dinner "on your own" so guests can have some private time away from the group or guides, and one or two lunches during the week. We try to include as much as possible so that guests know exactly how much their vacation will cost and budget accordingly. On each tour page we have a comprehensive list of what is included and what is not.

Which payment methods do you accept?

We prefer to accept payment by bank wire / transfer as it offers the best combination of security, speed and low cost. We can facilitate credit card payments subject to a 3.75% surcharge (4.5% American Express).

How much do people generally tip the tour guides?

We encourage guests to use their discretion and to tip their guides according to the level of service received. As a guideline we suggest \$100 per guest, per guide on a Classic level tour; \$150 per guest, per guide on a Deluxe or Private tour; or \$250 per guest, per guide on a Bespoke tour.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When do I have to pay for my tour?

We usually request a deposit at the time of reservation with the balance payment due three months before trip start date. Please see our Reservations Policies page for more information.

Will I have to carry my own luggage?

No. We take care of your luggage from day one; once you hand it over to our team you will only ever see it in your bedroom of each hotel. When checking out of each hotel, please leave your labelled bags in your room and our team will transport it to the next hotel - your luggage will be waiting for you when you arrive at the next hotel as if by some form of wizardry!

How far in advance do I need to make my reservation?

We can offer some discounts during traditional sales periods with the most attractive being available around US Thanksgiving (late November each year). We appreciate early bookings so we can plan our schedule around your needs.

Where can I find additional details & information for my airline luggage allowances?

Check with your airline for your included allowances. Fresh Eire Adventures is not licensed to arrange air travel so we cannot get involved in your airline reservations and allowances.

Do I need to pay a deposit when I book my tour with Fresh Eire Adventures?

Yes. To confirm your departure we require a small deposit with the balance falling due three months prior to trip start date. If your tour is booked within three months of the trip start date then we require full payment.

Is it possible to personalise a Fresh Eire Adventures tour?

Absolutely! This is something we specialize in; we get to know our guests interests in advance of the tour and, even on scheduled public tours, we can feature some personalised elements to meet your expectations.

Can I bring my own bike on tour?

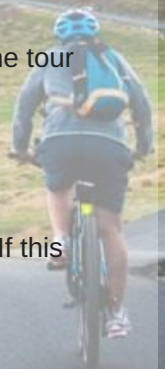
Yes, of course! This is a bike tour and we're here to make sure you have the best ride of your life! If this means riding your own gorgeous bike on one of our stunning rides then we are more than happy to facilitate you. Pedal on!

Can I bring my own pedals, saddle, GPS/Odometer and helmet on tour?

Yes, we encourage it in fact. While we provide everything necessary for a flawless tour, and offer top quality equipment, you might find that you prefer your own saddle or helmet. If you're used to riding with clip in pedals then we encourage folks to bring them along. Otherwise we offer flat or hard-cage (strapless) pedals.

How should I train for my bike tour?

We encourage guests to prepare for their bike tour according to their fitness level and the type of bike tour their reserve. A spin class is ideal if you can't get out during inclement weather.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Should I purchase insurance for my tour?

We encourage folks to purchase trip insurance and to discuss with their insurer how to protect their trip in the event that they need to cancel.

How many people can I expect to be with on my tour?

We are proud to offer a maximum guest to guide ratio of 4:1 on our scheduled tours - the lowest in the industry. This is how we can offer such outstanding personal service.

What is the difference between Fresh Eire Adventures and other Bike tour companies?

We are a small boutique operator, privately owned and operated and, as such, we can personalise your experience with an attention to detail like no other company.

How many miles will I bike each day?

Each tour offers different routes and daily mileage. While our Holland tour offers an average daily mileage of 35 miles, the terrain is mostly quite flat so the rides are very easily accomplished. Our Costa Brava tour offers a daily mileage of 28 miles but the terrain is much more challenging. We rate our tours EASY, MODERATE and ADVANCED for clarity. Remember our support vehicle is always available and you can choose to ride only a portion of the day if you so desire.

