



PRAGUE TO KRAKOW POINT-TO-POINT BIKE TOUR

9 DAYS – Fully guided, small group bike tour with van support, hotel stays in the Czech Republic & Poland

TOUR DATES: June 29 – July 7, 2024

Join us on this fascinating journey through the Czech Republic and Poland, during which we will pass through historic areas of Bohemia, Vysočina, Moravia, Czech and Polish Silesia and Lesser Poland. During the trip we will visit six monuments designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and countless beautiful towns and hidden villages, castles, and chateaux. On this tour you will visit medieval Kutná Hora, a town which competed with Prague in the Middle Ages for the most important place in the Czech Kingdom. Colorful towns await like Litomyšl or Moravská Třebová as well as the mighty castles crowned by the fairytale-like Bouzov. Crossing the wooded and peaceful highlands, we descend to the old Moravian capital Olomouc. Integral to Central European history, this beautiful city is sometimes called "The Small Prague". We meander to the foot of the Beskydy mountains, enjoying a fantastic panorama before the route introduces us to picturesque towns like Hranice or Štramberk.

Entering Poland through the Těšínsko region, we bike this lake-filled land to admire the old town of Pszyna with its chateau and open-air museum. Recent history obliges us to visit Oswiecim (Auschwitz) with its dreadful WWII history and nearby Nazi concentration camp. From here we continue through gentle landscapes along the Amber Trail to the historical capital Krakow to admire its old town and the regal Wawel castle. Perhaps you will want to extend your stay in Krakow!

This tour is recommended for adventurous travelers who can pack light - you will need to pack and unpack daily at each new hotel. You should be open and excited about the fun that awaits as you explore new places, engage with the locals, and discover their regional cuisine. A regional guide will lead this tour along with your tour director Stephanie.

NEW - We offer our guests a range of bikes on this tour, including hybrids, gravel bikes, and e-bikes, AND, a support van will accompany the group, transporting your luggage - and you - when necessary!



Day 1: Meet in Prague, Van Transfer to Nymburk, bike ride to Kutná Hora (42 km / 26 mi.)

We recommend you arrive in Prague the day before the tour begins and explore the Golden City on your own. Today we will begin our journey in Prague where you meet your guide for your van transfer Nymburk. This ancient town on the Elbe has one of the best-preserved medieval city walls in the Czech Republic. On a pleasant and easy bike trail we'll roll along the river to the spa town of Poděbrady and continue to the royal town of Kolín with its ornate Renaissance synagogue. From Kolín we will leave the Elbe River and bike to one of the UNESCO Heritage sites on our "must-do list" – the old silver mining capital, Kutná Hora. Through the Middle Ages it was one of the most

important towns in Europe, extremely rich due to its mines, coin mint and location on trade routes. Thanks to all this we can relax in the cozy old town amidst fascinating Medieval and Baroque structures. Crowning it all is the stunning St Barbara's church – a real jewel of Gothic architecture!

Day 2: Kutná Hora to Pardubice (56 km / 35 mi.)

Before we leave Kutná Hora we will visit an extraordinary venue – the Sedlec ossuary, whose decorations were created using the bones of more than 30 000 people, making it a curious and macabre exhibition. Just before we return to the Elbe, we can visit a lovely Classical-style chateau, Kačina. Rejoining the river we pedal to the Kladruby national stud farm, a recent addition to the UNESCO list, which has produced exceptional horses for the Habsburgs since the 16th century. In the afternoon we'll bike along the Buňkov lake, taking a pause to relax on the beach or even swim. Today's last stop is the medieval town of Pardubice. A charming, quaint town with a nice chateau and cobblestone lanes. Follow your nose (or Stephanie!) for a tasty treat because Pardubice is the Czech capital of traditional gingerbread.



Day 3: Pardubice to Litomyšl (62 km / 39 mi.)



As we leave the flat Elbe riverside, we meet gentle hills and the mighty Kunětická hora castle, which dominates the surrounding countryside. A slight detour and a climb up the hill are worthwhile. After a pause we reach the river Loučná, following it to the village of Vraclav and its memorial to the Vršovec noble family. Next stop is the town of Vysoké Mýto: while it well known today as the hub of motorcoach construction, its much longer history is evident by a beautiful town square and nicely preserved city gates. Today's lodgings are in the UNESCO-protected town of Litomyšl, home of a fantastic Renaissance chateau with stunning gardens. Litomyšl is also the birthplace of the renowned composer Bedřich Smetana, a man celebrated every year with a classical music festival - a highlight of the Czech cultural calendar.

Day 4: Litomyšl to Moravská Třebová (44km / 28 mi.)

On this day we bid farewell to Bohemia, crossing the historical border to Moravia as we bike the gap between the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands in the south and the Eagle Mountains in the north. We can admire the Renaissance town of Svitavy with its beautiful square and explore the history of its most famous resident, the widely loathed Oskar Schindler. From here we have to climb over the Hřebeč range, but our route soon descends easily towards our lodging in the town of Moravská Třebová. This little town has a fantastic Renaissance chateau, one of the best examples of that in all of Moravia.

DAY 5: Moravská Třebová to Olomouc (68 km / 42 mi.)

Our day begins with a nice, easy ride along the River Třebůvka, Still skirting the old border between Bohemia and Moravia, there is an abundance of castle ruins, though today, mostly piles of stones. When we eventually leave the riverside, we arrive at the largest castle of the day – Bouzouov, considered by many as one of the most romantic places in the Czech Republic. From there, we leave the highlands behind and descend to the river Morava, which will be in sight for the rest of the day. You can continue the bike route along the meandering river until we reach the UNESCO city of Olomouc. This ancient capital of the Moravia Empire rewards its visitors with fascinating sculptures, dramatic churches, and a communist-era astronomical clock.



Day 6: Olomouc to Hranice / Teplice nad Bečvou (58 km / 36 mi.)

Today we will follow the Bystřice river. First, we reach the Tršice region with its beautiful views of Svatý Kopeček (Holy Hill). Upon arriving in Přerov we reach the Bečva river where we follow a nice bike trail upstream. In Lipník we can admire the town center complete with a castle and extraordinary gardens, or we can make a detour up the hill to the mighty Helfštýn castle. Further upstream we reach the town of Hranice with its Renaissance square. On the other bank of Bečva we can relax in the historic local spa Teplice nad Bečvou. One of the oldest spas in Moravia, Spa Teplice nad Bečvou dates to 1553. Directly

under the spa buildings there are rock cracks, linked to an extensive cave system. This is the source of miraculous healing water, strongly enriched with minerals.



Day 7: van transfer to Český Těšín (Polish border), bike ride to Osvetim (79 km / 49 mi.)

In the morning we transfer by van across the border to start the Polish part of our journey. After a couple of initial climbs, the small roads gently meander away from the mountain views behind you. First stop is the small town of Skoczow where we continue along the Wisla river. From there we bike through a land of lakes crowned by the mighty Goczalkowicke dam to the historic town of Pszyna. Here you can visit a nice chateau and the regional museum or the Zubr (European buffalo) nature park. We will conclude our day in the nice historical town of Oświęcim (Auschwitz), sadly known for the nearby WWII concentration camp.

Day 8: Osvetim to Krakow (73 km / 45 mi.)

We will begin our last day of the bike tour with a visit to the Auschwitz concentration camp and museum complex. Afterwards, we will begin our bike ride along the river Wisla upstream to the historic town of Lipowiec. Here we can view a majestic castle ruin and visit the town's open-air museum. The bike route climbs a couple hills, again rewarding us with wonderful views of the surrounding countryside. Next stop on the way will be the monastery in Alwernia or the cave complex in the protected nature area near Baczow. We will continue our ride on a lovely bike path into the historic city of Krakow, known for its grand architecture and cultural leadership.



Day 9: Departure from Krakow

Our tour ends today but we highly recommend you extend your stay so that you can tour this magnificent city, the former capital of the Polish kingdom, full of picturesque places and buildings. If you have more time, we suggest a visit to the impressive historic salt mines, only a short distance from the town!

Physical Fitness and Bike Handling and Bike Safety: *To participate in and enjoy the biking part of the tour, it is important that all guests are in good physical condition and have the necessary bike handling skills to ride safely with the group. One should be able to shift gears, apply brakes safely, maintain proper balance, and use hand signals. Prior group riding experience is strongly encouraged. This tour is rated difficulty level 2 so novice cyclists may occasionally find it challenging. Guests are expected to maintain a pace of 10-12 mph. It is quite possible that our touring bikes are heavier (35 lbs.) than your road bike at home, so you should be able to ride your home bike at a speed of 13-15 mph to keep up the pace on this tour. Guests who cannot maintain that pace will be asked to board the support van or ride on their own. Electric bikes are also an option (for a surcharge) but will need to be requested before the tour begins. Our e-bikes weigh about 50 lbs. and we do not recommend them for novice cyclists. On this tour, we will occasionally need to share the road with motor vehicles, and to cross busy intersections. The weather is variable, however, even under poor weather conditions, you should feel safe and able to cover the day's distance on your bike.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Stephanie Ventures Group size: 15 guests, Tour Director (Stephanie), regional English-speaking bicycle guide, van driver(1-2)

Arrival in PRAGUE: The closest airport to the start is PRAGUE (PRG). Ask us about additional hotel nights in Prague and Krakow! Directions on how to meet the guide and driver will be provided as the departure date approaches.

Itinerary Program:

The above itinerary is subject to change. Alterations are sometimes necessary due to circumstances beyond the operator's control.

TOUR PRICES according to rental bike style:

HYBRID BICYCLE (men's or lady's frame)

- €2795.00, VAT Inclusive, per person, DOUBLE occupancy
- €3250.00, VAT Inclusive, per person, SINGLE occupancy

GRAVEL BICYCLE (men's or lady's frame)

- €2850.00, VAT Inclusive, per person, DOUBLE occupancy
- €3295.00, VAT Inclusive, per person, SINGLE occupancy

ELECTRIC BICYCLE (step-through frame)

- €2895.00, VAT Inclusive, per person, DOUBLE occupancy
- €3350.00, VAT Inclusive, per person, SINGLE occupancy

Interested in a tandem bike or a recumbent bike? Please ask us about tour pricing with specialty bikes!

Also available – Shimano SPD pedals, toe cages, gel seat covers



PELLS HYBRID BIKE
(Men's or Lady's frame, V brakes)



PELLS GRAVEL BIKE
(Men's or Lady's frame, V brakes)



AGOGS ELECTRIC BIKE
(Step-through frame)

Bicycle Locks: All bicycles are outfitted with locks. Please use them whenever you plan to leave your bicycle unattended for any length of time. You will be liable for damage or theft of the bicycle if it is stolen during an excursion because it was not locked properly. Bicycle insurance is not included in the tour price but is available for a nominal fee.

Included in the cost of the tour

- 8 nights in 3-star and 4-star hotels with ensuite bath, local taxes
- Daily BREAKFAST (8), SNACKS during bike rides, DINNERS (4), LUNCH not included, <drinks with meals not included>
- 24-gear touring bike (e-bikes have 8 gears), handlebar bag and rear bag, water bottle
- Bicycle Helmet: all guests are required to wear a properly fitting helmet, with chin strap clipped, while riding on the tour
- Services of Tour Director, Cycling Tour Guide, Van Driver(s)
- Support van to transport luggage and guests according to the itinerary
- Daily route briefings / GPX tracks / city maps
- Entrance fees for sites listed as included in the itinerary



NOT Included in the cost of the tour

- Airfare, airport transfers
- Travel insurance, we advise guests to purchase coverage as soon as they pay their deposit
- gratuities for guides
- Drinks with meals
- Entrance fees for sites not listed as included in the itinerary

About Stephanie Ventures



Our expertise is active, affordable, small group travel and we pride ourselves on putting a unique spin on our itineraries to ensure you will not find another tour experience out there quite like ours. Founder Stephanie Scott started the company in the US, with 35 years of experience in specialty food and wine, during which she designed plenty of fun, memorable events, and travel adventures. She managed the title sponsorship of one of the most popular men's pro-cycling teams in the US for 15 years, but is content to ride her bike, at home and on tour, at a more leisurely pace. She believes that one of the best ways to see the world and meet its people is by traveling around it on two wheels. She logged many kilometers on the bike paths of Germany, Switzerland, and Austria before launching her tour company in 2015.

Certified as a Tour Director by the International Tour Management Institute, Stephanie worked as a tour guide in San Francisco before founding Stephanie Ventures. She went on to host amazing bike & barge tours in the Netherlands, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, and Italy. Fast-forward a few years and a pandemic, and in the dead of winter 2022, Stephanie sold everything she owned and ran away to Europe to realize her long-time dream of living and working there. From this new home base in Alphen aan den Rijn in South Holland, she can be closer to the destinations she offers, and design new tours including land-based journeys. Join her as she searches for panoramic views, history, local culture, regional cuisine, wine, beer, or whatever the locals drink, and much more! Be sure to bring your spirit of adventure, hearty appetite, and a good sense of humor!

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