

# Pastoral Panoramas of Central Europe

Country walks in Czech Republic, Slovakia, & Poland  
September 10 - 20, 2025 • 11 Days • Approx \$4600

*Pastoral Panoramas of Central Europe* is the final steps of the initial planning phase. Travelers who wish to hold their spot on this tour are encouraged to submit a refundable \$100 pre-registration deposit by clicking the green PRE-REGISTER button below.

When the tour is released for full registration, pre-registered travelers have one week of priority access to full registration, which requires an additional \$200 (\$300 total registration). Registration deposits are non-refundable.

## **Introduction**

We are excited to introduce a brand new hiking experience in central Europe. Two of our favorite cities in Europe, Prague and Krakow, have often been included in previous WAI Central European Adventures. Through a new partnership with a travel planner in the Czech Republic, we are now able to offer a walking tour off the beaten path that connects these two delightful Central European capitals.

Highlights include:

- Visits to **7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites**
- A series of 13 walks and hikes, including mostly nature trails in **Bohemian Paradise** and the **Giant Mountains** (Czech Republic), and **Orava** and the **High Tatra Mountains** (Slovakia)
- Outstanding example of architecture ~ **Baroque, Gothic, Renaissance, Art Nouveau, and folk**
- Focus on **rural and nature walking** and **interactions with locals**
- Optional Pre-night and walk in **Prague** and Extension in **Krakow**

[Pre-Register Contact Us](#)

[Tour Type: Classic Curated](#)

**Overview / Trip Details**

- [Tour Details](#)
- [Pre-Register](#)
- [360.260.9393](#)
- [Email Us](#)

# Itinerary

***Click on each day to reveal more details.***

## [Day 1~September 10: Arrive Prague, Czech Republic](#)

*Optional Prague City of a Hundred Spires Walk - 8 km, rated 2B*

- Travelers arrive in Prague
- Optional Prague Sightseeing Walk for those arriving on September 9
  - Visit to Hradcany Castle
  - Walking in the historic center of Prague (UNESCO World Heritage Site) including the famous Charles Bridge, Old Town Square, and Wenceslas Square
- Welcome Orientation and dinner for all travelers
- Overnight in wonderfully situated hotel in Lesser Town near the Vltava River

## [Day 2~September 11: Prague - Rychnov, Czech Republic](#)

*Walk #1: Prachov Rocks Emperor's Trail - 5 km, rated 2C*

*Walk #2: Mladejov to Trosky Castle - 5 km, rated 2C*

- Unique walk through the geological sandstone wonderland of [Prachov Rocks](#) on the so-called Emperor's Trail commemorating a doubtful visit by Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz I in 1813. Frequent film set for fantasy themes.
- Picnic lunch be at a popular local fishing lake
- Afternoon nature hike to the dramatic runs of Trosky Castle with a castle visit at walk's end
- Travelers who opt out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> walk of the day can be bused to Trosky Castle
- 2-night stay in pretty little Bohemian (the region, not the lifestyle) town of Rychnov nad Kneznou



### [Day 3~September 12: Activities from Rychnov](#)

*Walk #3: Jirasek Chalet & Eagle Mountain Hike - 4 km, rated 2B*

*Walk #4: Metuje River to Nove Mesto Walk 4 km; rated 1B*

- Morning walk featuring pre-WWII fortifications built in anticipation of Nazi attack and stately early 20<sup>th</sup> century Jirasek Chalet on Eagle Mountain
- Afternoon walk following the wild and scenic Metuje River finishing in Nove Mesto, a small town with a surprisingly rich architectural core, protected as an urban monument zone
- Travelers who opt out of 2<sup>nd</sup> walk of the day are bussed to Nove Mesto to enjoy a stroll through the old town

### [Day 4~September 13: Rychnov - Olomouc, Czech Republic](#)

*Walk #5: Olomouc UNESCO City Walk - 5 km, rated 1A*

- Guided tour of splendid, UNESCO-listed Litomysl Castle, a 16<sup>th</sup> century jewel of the Italian Renaissance style in a lovely, small town of the same name possessing a charming and well-preserved historic center
- Picnic lunch in a pastoral Bohemian countryside setting
- Olomouc, another enchanting Czech city, second only to Prague in its wide range of architectural styles and preservation of picturesque monuments from another era

- Overnight with time for exploring in Olomouc



#### [Day 5~September 14: Olomouc - Terchova, Slovakia](#)

*Walk #6: Wallachian Open-Air Museum Walk - 4 km, rated 1A*

*Walk #7: Radhost Mountain Walk - 4 km, rated 2B*

- Cross into the Moravian-Silesian Beskids, a mountain range known for its natural beauty with many protected areas and traditional wooden architecture in historic villages
- Stroll through Wallachian Open-Air Museum, the largest open-air museum in Central Europe, to experience the rich culture of the Moravian-Silesian Beskids region displayed in folk art, crafts, food samples, forgotten trades, and timeless wooden homes and churches
- Afternoon walk from another ageless village to a hilltop chapel dedicated to Saints Cyril and Methodius, Byzantine clerics who spread the bible and Christian gospel into lands north of Constantinople by developing the Glagolitic alphabet (pre-cursor to today's Cyrillic script)
- First night of a 2-night stay in Terchova, Slovakia



### [Day 6~September 15: Activities from Terchova](#)

*Walk #8: Rural Slovakia Shepherds Walk - 4.8 km, rated 3B*

*Walk #9: Orava Castle Panoramas Walk - 3.7 km, rated 3B*

- Stimulating rural hike through Slovakian countryside enjoying coniferous forests, emerald meadows, and herds of grazing sheep, framed by picturesque shepherds' huts and wooden cottages
- Picnic lunch at the close of the morning walk
- Afternoon walk to stunning 13<sup>th</sup> century Orava Castle, one of Slovakia's largest and most impressive, dominating the Orava River from its perch on limestone cliffs (guided visit to follow)
- Travelers who opt out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> walk are bused to a nearby village in the shadow of the castle, then join walkers for the castle visit if they wish



[Day 7~September 16: Terchova - Levoca, Slovakia](#)

*Walk #9: High Tatras Strbske Mountain Lake Walk - 5 km, rated 2B*

*Walk #10: High Tatras Popradske Mountain Lake Walk - 6 km, rated 3D*

- A pair of higher altitude hikes (about 4500 feet above sea level) in the High Tatra Mountains, the highest part of the wide-ranging Carpathian system, featuring two pristine mountain lakes
- Lunch in a lakeside restaurant between the hikes
- Arrive for a 2-night stay in the historic town of Levoca, a UNESCO World Heritage site in one of the oldest and most picturesque regions of Slovakia



### Day 8~September 17: Activities from Levoca

*Walk #11: Slovakian Countryside Walk - 5 km, rated 2B*

*Walk #12: Uloza Pilgrimage Trail - 5 km, rated 2C*

- Lovely rural hike to the village of Zehra, home to a remarkable 13th-century Gothic church inscribed into the same UNESCO listing as Levoca
- Visit to Spissky Castle, one of the largest fortifications in Central Europe, founded by Hungarian kings around 1200 AD and also part of the Levoca UNESCO World Heritage listing
- Second walk of the day from the village of Uloza along a pilgrimage trail that leads past a locally famous shrine and back into Levoca
- Travelers who opt out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> walk will return by bus to Levoca for a free afternoon to explore on their own



### Day 9~September 18: Levoca - Krakow, Poland

- Morning visit to Saint Jacob's Cathedral in Levoca, with its extraordinary wooden alter, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the world
- Scenic drive across a scenic high plateau, descending into Pieniny National Park and the winding Dunajec River
- Floating down the Dunajec River on wooden rafts captained by experienced pilots whose ancestors plotted the same route transporting timber all the way to the Baltic Sea
- Arrive Krakow, Poland for two nights in the "City of Kings" in a strategically-located hotel within the old city walls





### [Day 10~September 19: Activities in Krakow](#)

#### *Walk 13: Krakow Trials & Triumphs Walk - 8 km, rated 1A*

- Intriguing walking tour through Poland's traditional royal capital
- Visit to the Jagiellonian University with famed alumni like Nicolaus Copernicus (heliocentric theory of the universe) and Pope John Paul II
- Exploration of Krakow's Jewish quarter, with its rich history of Jewish culture and faith
- Tour of exceptional Royal Wawel Castle, burial grounds of most of Poland's monarchs since the 11th century
- Wandering through the old city, chock full of innumerable intriguing corners and abounding in statuesque churches built between the 11th and 18th centuries in a wide spectrum of architectural styles
- Memorable farewell dinner with travel mates finishing *Pastoral Panoramas of Central Europe* tomorrow



### [Day 11~September 20: Depart Krakow](#)

- Depart after breakfast at leisure for the nearby Krakow airport

## **Before You Register**

***Click on each heading to reveal more details.***

### [How Do I Lock in My Place on This Adventure?](#)

*Pastoral Panoramas of Central Europe* is currently in the planning phase. Travelers who wish to hold their spot on this tour are encouraged to submit a refundable \$100 pre-registration deposit by clicking the green PRE-REGISTER button below.

When the tour is finalized with firm dates, updated itineraries, and final pricing, it will be released for full registration. Pre-registered travelers have one week of priority access to full registration, which requires an additional \$200 (\$300 total registration). Registration deposits are non-refundable.

### [How is Airfare Arranged?](#)

The tour begins in Prague, Czech Republic on September 10, 2025. The tour finishes in

Krakow, Poland on September 20, 2025.

The official start and finish points for this adventure are the hotels in Prague and Krakow.

As usual, we recommend arriving early and we have a pre-night booked in our Prague hotel for September 9 and an optional Prague sightseeing walk offered on September 10.

An extension will be offered in Krakow, Poland for an additional 2 nights featuring high-value points of interest not included in the main itinerary. Because many WAI travelers have visit Prague and Krakow with us over the years, we use these two classic Central European cities as start and finish but focus the itinerary on the rural and small town highlights in between.

Details for the pre-night and extension are still being worked out and will be announced in the Adventure Advice memo which announces airfare and entry requirements and tips provided by email after you register for the Adventure. Please do not book your airfare prior to receiving these flight details from us!

### [Travel Insurance](#)

WAI believes strongly in the importance of travel insurance for financial and medical protection from any number of unforeseen circumstances that can arise before departure or during your Adventure. This is now especially true in the era of COVID-19, which is typically treated like any other illness for travel insurance purposes. Many travel insurance providers are available for you to consider. Laura Pfahler and Sharon Mitchell of World Travel Inc. are travel agents who provides air travel and insurance services to many WAI travelers.

- Laura Pfahler: 503-434-6401 or [llp@wtpdx.com](mailto:llp@wtpdx.com)
- Sharon Mitchell: 971-261-2091 or [smitchell@wtpdx.com](mailto:smitchell@wtpdx.com)

Check out [Insurance Tips](#) from World Travel for a short introduction to travel insurance. (NOTE: WAI receives no commission or financial remuneration from World Travel Inc.).

As always, do some shopping to ensure you are getting the best value. Using the [squaremouth.com](https://www.squaremouth.com) website can be a good way to compare pricing.

Other options include:

- Allianz
- Betins
- Travel Guard
- Travel Insured International

*NOTE: We suggest purchasing from a reputable, well-established insurance company (avoid buying insurance from an unknown company found only online). Travelers interested in purchasing "cancel for any reason" insurance coverage should be careful to check pricing*

*and terms BEFORE they register for a tour. Recent changes in the international travel landscape has caused changes in the policies of some insurance companies, and made the purchase of this particular type of policy even more time-sensitive.*

### [What if WAI Cancels the Tour?](#)

Walking Adventures International reserves the right to cancel any tour departure with fewer than 15 participants, in which case registered participants will receive a 100% refund of payments received.

This refund policy contains one exclusion related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Many suppliers require non-refundable deposits as a condition of booking services. Unforeseen circumstances linked to the virus can force us to cancel a tour. Due to these supplier's non-refundable policies, WAI intends to retrieve as much of these deposits as possible, but cannot guarantee a 100% refund.

In cases where full refunds cannot be obtained for a cancelled tour, we will do our best to transfer unrefunded money as traveler credits to be applied to a future tour to that destination.

*View our full [General Tour Conditions](#) for more details.*

### [What Happens Next?](#)

Tours popular in the pre-registration phase will be finalized with firm dates, updated itineraries, and final pricing. The tour is then released for full registration. Pre-registered travelers have one week of priority access to full registration, which requires an additional \$200 (\$300 total registration). Registration deposits are non-refundable.

You will receive a statement reminders for the two subsequent deposits and the final payment. Details of payment amounts and due dates will be published with the brochure is open for full registrations. All payments are non-refundable after the due date.

About 2 weeks before departure, you will receive a final packet with all the details of the program, including hotel name and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.



## Adventure Pace

**Tour Pace:** 1 2 3 4 5

**Walk Challenge:** 1 2 3 4 5

[About Adventure Pace](#)

### Adventure Pace

How much Adventure do you want? Here are a few features to help gauge the following factors on each tour.

**Tour Pace:** On a scale of 1 (slowest pace) to 5 (fastest pace), we've rated the following factors: number of 1-night hotels; driving miles per day; fullness of schedule; mid-tour airline flights; high elevation setting; and average amount of walking per day.

**Walk Challenge:** This number represents an average walk difficulty rating for the tour using a scale of 1 (easiest) to 5 (hardest).

[Pre-Register Contact Us](#)