

Old World Prague & the Blue Danube

October 2016



Travel with us to the most beautiful destinations in central Europe aboard the luxury river ship MS Adagio. You'll visit four enchanting countries following in the footsteps of the Habsburgs along the stunning blue Danube River. Your journey will include the historic European river port cities of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, which ruled the region from 1438 to 1918 – in a word: breathtaking!

Among this trip's unique features are a tour of Austria's renowned Melk Abbey, charming Durnstein, dramatic Bratislava, Slovakia, and included tours of such scenic capitals as Prague, Vienna, and Budapest. You'll also enjoy free time to explore these unforgettable locales on your own. Round out your Central European River Cruise with our exclusive Discovery Series events and a selection of optional tours. Don't forget to shop for gifts in the charming old city of each capital. Best of all, you'll travel in style with your friends from Southern Exposure and Grand Circle Travel!

REMINDER: Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, please call the Southern Exposure office at **(269) 962-1255**. If you haven't experienced a Southern Exposure travel adventure before, feel free to ask questions or meet with our staff.



Snapshot Itinerary: Old Prague & the Blue Danube

This once-in-a-lifetime travel adventure will showcase both Old Prague & the Blue Danube in all their historic diversity and natural beauty. Below is a quick look at our itinerary. Read on for additional details for each day.

Day 1 – Depart U.S. for Budapest, Hungary

Day 2 – Budapest

Day 3 – Budapest / Captain’s Welcome Dinner

Day 4 – Budapest / Danube Bend / Optional Hospital in the Rock Tour

Day 5 – Bratislava, Slovakia / Kindergarten Visit / Home-Hosted Visit

Day 6 – Vienna, Austria / Optional Musical Vienna Tour

Day 7 – Vienna / Optional Schoenbrunn Palace Tour

Day 8 – Durnstein / Wachau Valley / Melk Abbey

Day 9 – Linz / Optional Salzburg tour / Captain’s Farewell Dinner

Day 10 – Linz / Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic / Prague

Day 11 – Prague Old Town

Day 12 – Prague / Optional Prague Castle tour / Farewell Dinner

Day 13 – Return to U.S.

For more information, please read on or call the Southern Exposure staff at **(269) 962-1255**. Space is truly limited, so don’t wait to make your call. *Thank you!*





Photo: *The Hungarian Parliament building sits on the eastern bank of the Danube in lovely Budapest. Construction was started in 1885 and the building was inaugurated on the 1000th anniversary of the country in 1896, and completed in 1904.*

Detailed Itinerary: Old Prague & the Blue Danube 2016

Day 1 – Depart U.S. for Budapest, Hungary

Fly from one of several U.S. gateway cities to Budapest, Hungary.

Day 2 – Budapest

Arriving in Budapest, you'll be met at the airport by a Grand Circle representative and transferred to your luxurious river boat ship, the MS Adagio.

Gather in the early evening and mingle with your fellow travelers. Throughout your River Cruise, you'll enjoy "port talks" every evening. Your Program Director will describe the approaching port area and town prior to arrival so you can prepare for the next day's tour and any free time you may have at the next port-of-call. Tonight you'll learn a bit about Budapest before dining aboard ship. Then enjoy a scenic cruise as the ship crosses from the Buda side of the Danube to Pest.

Day 3 – Budapest / Captain's Welcome Dinner

After breakfast, set off on a tour of Hungary's lovely capital, situated on both sides of the magnificent Danube River. In Buda, on the western bank of the Danube, you'll see Castle Hill, encircled by ramparts that protect the massive castle complex. Destroyed during World War II, the palace has been restored, approximating its original splendor, and it is now a vast museum complex, where remains of the original structure are displayed.

Later, cross the Danube and see Heroes' Square, with its Millennial Column set off by equestrian statues of historic ninth-century Magyar conquerors. The adjoining colonnade displays more statues of kings, dukes of Transylvania, and liberty fighters who influenced the history of Hungary.

Following lunch onboard, enjoy free time in Budapest to explore on your own. You may visit the Church of Our

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Lady, formerly used for the coronations of Hungarian kings. Its popular name of Matthias is in recognition of the Renaissance king who ruled in the 15th century and whose heraldic sign—a raven—is displayed on one of the towers of the church. Dating back to the 13th century, the structure is an interesting mix of architectural styles used during reconstruction of the building at different times in its history. Note that during the 150-year Turkish occupation of Hungary, the church served as Eski Djami (Old Mosque) for the Turks. Inside the church you can view art of Bertalan Szekely and Karoly Lotz, 19th-century Hungarian painters. Tonight, enjoy a Captain’s Welcome Dinner.

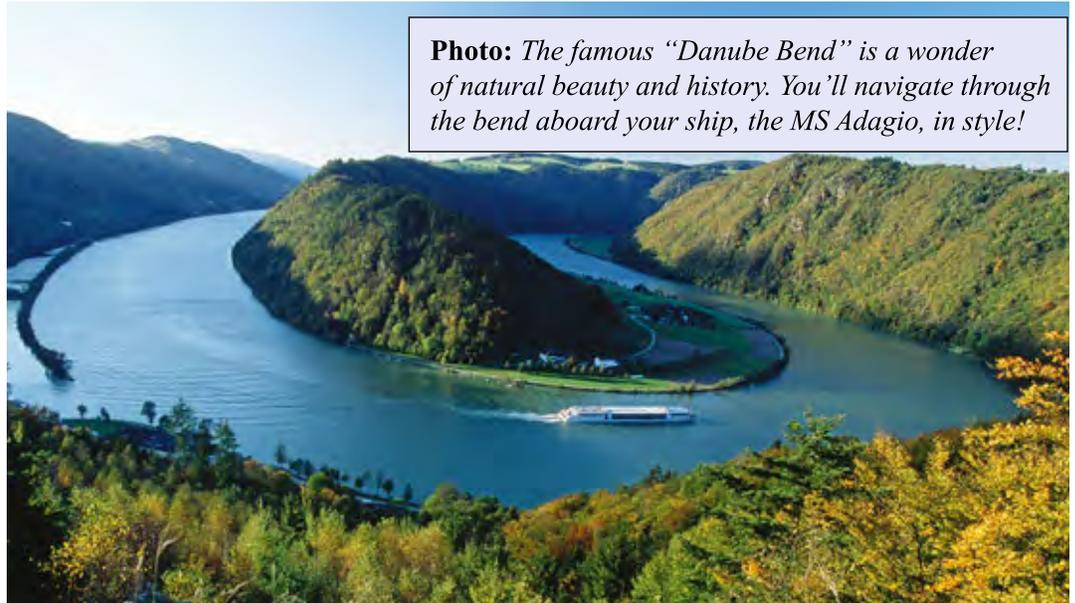


Photo: *The famous “Danube Bend” is a wonder of natural beauty and history. You’ll navigate through the bend aboard your ship, the MS Adagio, in style!*

Day 4 – Budapest / Danube Bend / Optional Hospital in the Rock Tour

Enjoy the morning at leisure to continue exploring Budapest, or choose to join an optional tour to discover the fascinating Hospital in the Rock. Connected to underground caves below Castle Hill in Buda, this hospital that tended to scores of sick and wounded during World War II, and again during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. It was even converted into a nuclear fallout shelter during the Cold War. Today, it is a museum, with wax figures in period clothing and vintage medical equipment giving visitors a feel for the intensity of the work performed here.

Next, return to the ship for lunch on board and begin your Danube River Cruise towards Bratislava. As you do, you’ll enjoy scenic views of the historic city of Esztergom, along with riverside views of the remarkable 16th-century basilica that stands near the banks of the Danube. Tonight, enjoy a port talk about Bratislava, Slovakia, which you’ll discover tomorrow. Savor dinner onboard tonight as you continue cruising.

Day 5 – Bratislava, Slovakia / Kindergarten Visit / Home-Hosted Visit

Arrive in Bratislava this morning. After breakfast onboard, you’ll enjoy an included walking tour of Slovakia’s capital, the famous Danube city with a picturesque setting at the foot of the Little Carpathian Mountains. Once the capital of Hungary, Bratislava has a history going back to Celtic and Roman times. The Slavs settled here in the fifth century under their ruler Bretislav.

Under Hungarian rule, the city was called Pozsony. Its German-speaking settlers called it Pressburg, and since 1918 it has been called by its Slavic name: Bratislava. Your tour of the city features the Old Town, the historic heart of Bratislava, where you view beautiful St. Martin’s Cathedral, built in the 14th and 15th centuries. Walk through the pedestrian zone to Michael’s Gate with its 15th-century tower, offering excellent views of the city.

You’ll also stroll by the Old Town Hall and the Neo-Classical Archbishop’s Palace. In the Palace’s Hall of Mirrors, Napoleon and the Austrian Emperor Francis I signed the historic Peace of Pressburg after the battle of Austerlitz in 1805. Bratislava is dominated by its massive square castle,

Important Travel Notes:

- For your comfort and safety, we recommend this tour for individuals in good physical condition. If you have difficulty walking, this may be a difficult trip for you.
- We reserve the right to cancel this tour due to insufficient registration. Full refund will be given if tour is canceled due to insufficient registration.
- If traveling alone, we will match you up with a roommate (this tour is double occupancy only).
- Please read the “What to Expect” box on the last page carefully. If you have further questions, please contact the Southern Exposure staff at **(269) 962-1255** during business hours.

which was a favorite residence of the Habsburg Queen, Maria Theresa, and other aristocrats whose lovely houses cluster in the old town below the castle.

Then, enjoy an exclusive Discovery Series event when you visit a local kindergarten that is supported in part by Grand Circle Foundation. Please note: The school visit is not possible on weekends or during the summer and national holidays, when school is not in session. If the school visit is not available, you will join a group of students for a roundtable discussion about life in today's Slovakia during an alternative exclusive Discovery Series event. Immerse yourself further in local life when you visit the home of an area family for a Home-Hosted Visit complete with coffee and cake. Tonight, enjoy dinner onboard with your fellow travelers.

Day 6 – Vienna, Austria / Optional Musical Vienna Tour

After breakfast, set off on an included tour of Vienna, including the Ringstrasse—Vienna's grand main boulevard—probably the greatest achievement of the Emperor Franz Joseph. In 1857, the Emperor ordered the demolition of the ancient city walls, which were no longer needed as fortifications and were impeding the growth of the city. In their place was constructed an elegant 2.5 mile-long boulevard, encircling the city center. The Neo-Classical buildings along the Ringstrasse bring together all the greatest architectural styles in an exuberant celebration of all that seemed possible during the Industrial Revolution.

Our stroll continues along the city sidewalks, passing by the well-known Hofburg Palace, home to many generations of the Hapsburg family, and the renowned Spanish Riding School.

After returning to the ship for lunch, the balance of your day is free for relaxing or exploring on your own. You may want to stroll through the old Jewish Quarter to see the only Viennese synagogue to have survived the 1938 Kristallnacht.

Perhaps you'll explore Austria's capital aboard a fiaker. These horse-drawn carriages have been in business since the 17th century, and your driver will show you the sights and delight you with Viennese anecdotes. You'll also find out for yourself whether or not it's true that drivers whistle strains of Mozart's beloved Magic Flute as they conduct passengers through the city. After an early dinner onboard, enjoy free time on your own. Or join us tonight for an unforgettable optional excursion to one of Vienna's famed concert halls, where you'll be enchanted by the classical Austrian music of Strauss and Mozart.



Photo: The “Hrad” (castle) towers over modern day Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, on the Danube.

What's Included in the Package

- International round-trip airfare from Detroit Metro Airport to and from Europe.
- Accommodations for or 3 nights in Prague at the Park Hotel Praha or similar and 8 nights aboard a private Grand Circle river ship.
- 28 meals—11 breakfasts, 8 lunches, and 9 dinners.
- 7 included tours: 7 exclusive, included tours: Budapest • Bratislava • Vienna • Durnstein • Melk Abbey • Cesky Krumlov • Prague Old Town.
- Exclusive Discovery Series events: Kindergarten Visit • Home-Hosted Visit in Bratislava • Apfelstrudel baking demonstration.
- Beverages during lunch and dinner onboard, including beer, wine, and soft drinks.
- All port charges—a value of \$125 per person
- Gratuities for applicable local guides and motorcoach drivers on your main trip.
- Personal headsets on all included and optional tours during the cruise portion of your trip.
- Exclusive services of a resident Grand Circle Program Director
- Baggage handling for 1 bag per person, incl. tips.



Day 7 – Vienna / Optional Schoenbrunn Palace Tour

This morning, discover more of Vienna’s charms on your own. Or join us for an optional tour of the expansive summer estate of Habsburg royalty, Schoenbrunn Palace (whose name means “beautiful spring”). Featuring 1,400 rooms, meticulously maintained gardens, and an architectural legacy that stretches back to the 17th century, the palace is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your visit includes a tour of palace highlights and free time to spend exploring the palace’s stunning park and gardens.

As you cruise this afternoon, learn the secrets of Apfelstrudel during an exclusive Discovery Series baking demonstration—and sample the delicious pastry hot from the oven. Then tour the galley to see where your chef creates his sumptuous meals. After dinner tonight onboard, relax with your fellow travelers.

Day 8 – Durnstein / Wachau Valley / Melk Abbey

This morning you will disembark and visit the picturesque city of Durnstein, which is said to take its name from both the area’s rocky terrain and the medieval castle overlooking the town proper (the German words duerr and stein mean “dry” and “stone,” respectively).

In the late twelfth century, Britain’s King Richard the Lionheart was held captive in this castle by Duke Leopold V, an Austrian noble who had fought alongside the king during the Crusades—and who was reportedly seeking retribution against Richard for slighting him during the siege of Acre.

Return to the ship later this morning and enjoy the stunning scenery moving past your eyes while cruising along one of the most beautiful parts of the Danube—the Wachau Valley. This UNESCO World Heritage Site consists of a landscape of sculpted hills and medieval towns built along the river.

You’ll arrive in Melk in the mid-afternoon to discover the historic, 900-year-old Baroque Melk Abbey on an included tour. This magnificently ornate structure has a long and storied history. Strategically situated on a steep, cliffside perch, Melk



Abbey's earliest incarnation was as a Roman border post. Later, it served as a tenth-century Babenberg fortress. It became a Benedictine monastery in 1089 and earned a distinguished reputation for medieval scholarship. Its library includes more than 70,000 books and 2,000 manuscripts, chiefly from the ninth through the 15th centuries.

Umberto Eco, author of the well-known book *The Name of the Rose*, a murder mystery of monastic intrigue, was inspired by the grandeur of Melk Abbey. Eco uses Heinrich von Melk, a Benedictine brother from Melk Abbey who wrote the ironic poem "About Priestly Life," as one of the novel's main characters.

The novel contains a great deal of scholarly information about the Middle Ages (Eco is known primarily as a scholar) and the compelling politics of medieval religion. The book's setting is fictional, but the story climaxes with a devastating fire that mirrors the real history of Melk Abbey, which was ravaged by fires in 1297 and 1683. The stately Baroque edifice that stands today, with its twin towers and 208-foot-high dome, dates from its reconstruction in 1736.

The Abbey houses a remarkable cherub-filled library of thousands of books and manuscripts, and 365 windows—one for every day of the year. The interior of the Abbey's church is a kaleidoscope of red, orange, and gold—with a magnificent carved pulpit and shimmering ceiling frescoes. During your tour, you'll get the chance to observe and explore up close, learning more about Melk Abbey's fascinating story.

TOUR RESERVATION POLICY:

Reservations can be made by calling Southern Exposure Farm at **(269) 962-1255**. A \$500 deposit is required to guarantee your place (check, cash or credit card accepted). Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.

Note: The information, dates and prices provided in this document are estimates only based on currently available information. Pricing and itinerary are subject to change.

Pricing Disclaimer: *Every effort has been made to provide accurate pricing information. Operator reserves the right to correct promotional or pricing errors at any time, or to increase the trip price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, cruise fares, currency fluctuations, park fee increases, taxes, or fuel surcharges, or other reasons, unless you pre-paid according to the terms of the Good Buy Plan prior to the cost increase going into effect. For more information, please contact Southern Exposure at **(269) 962-1255**.*

Day 9 – Linz / Optional Salzburg tour / Captain’s Farewell Dinner

Continue to discover Linz on your own today, or set off on a full-day optional excursion to Salzburg, the beautiful medieval city where the musical genius Amadeus Mozart was born. Those who remain forever enchanted by the film classic *The Sound of Music* may feel like they’ve been here before, as many of the movie’s scenes were shot here.

Your day begins with a scenic two-hour motorcoach ride, during which you’ll take in the picturesque Austrian countryside. Nestled along the border of the Alps, Salzburg has been settled for thousands of years and remains a center of culture and education to this day, with three universities and a thriving arts community. It is also rich with historic churches, palaces, and castles.

The city’s skyline is dominated by the imposing Hohensalzburg fortress and adorned by the delicate Baroque steeples of its churches. On your walking tour, you’ll view many of Salzburg’s historic landmarks and discover the charm of Salzburg’s romantic lanes, picturesque alleyways, and wrought iron guild signs.

After lunch at a local restaurant, you’ll have free time to explore on your own. You might want to visit the small museum in the house where Mozart was born in 1756, located on the Getreidegasse in Salzburg’s Old Town. And, while in Old Town, be sure to take in the magnificent Salzburg Dom, where the great composer was baptized.

Spend time in some of the city’s many museums and galleries, or explore Schloss Mirabell, whose enchanting gardens were constructed by the Baroque master builder Lukas von Hildebrandt. Perhaps you will view the Felsenreitschule, an impressive Baroque theater that is today the home of the Salzburg Festival, or the city’s beloved Schloss Hellbrunn, whose wasserspiele section is home to a series of unique fountains and water-powered displays.

You’ll return to Linz in the late afternoon. Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers for a special Captain’s Farewell Dinner.

Day 10 – Linz / Cesky Krumlov, Czech Rep. / Prague

This morning, disembark in Linz and begin your transfer to Prague in the Czech Republic. Along the way, you’ll stop in the medieval town of Cesky Krumlov, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, for an included lunch at a local restaurant. You arrive in Prague in the late afternoon and check into your hotel. Your evening is at leisure. Dinner tonight is on your own.

Day 11 – Prague Old Town

After breakfast, we set out to explore Prague. During the reign of Charles IV, King of Bohemia and Moravia, Prague was the seat of the Holy Roman Empire. Later, it was the vital center of the Habsburgs. While other European capitals were leveled during World War II, Prague survived virtually intact.

You’ll visit Stare Mesto, the Old Town, with its many wonderful Gothic and Baroque buildings, and see the



famous 15th-century astronomical clock at the Old Town Hall. Every hour, crowds assemble below to watch Christ and the twelve Apostles appear at two little windows above the clock face, followed by the skeleton of Death tolling the bell. You'll also walk across the city's famed Charles Bridge, a 15th-century structure spanning the Vltava River that functions as a makeshift performance and gallery space for musicians, artists, dancers, and more.

After lunch on your own, you can choose to spend some more time in the early afternoon exploring Prague at your own pace, or return to your hotel by subway, accompanied by your Program Director. Tonight you'll enjoy dinner on your own.

Day 12 – Prague / Optional Prague Castle Tour / Farewell Dinner

Enjoy the morning at leisure to explore Prague on your own. As it was during the zenith of the Bohemian kingdom, Prague still ranks as the thriving center of the country, with an artistic community reminiscent of Paris in the 1920s. Here you'll find one of Europe's most notable Jewish quarters, world-class museums and cathedrals, and architectural masterpieces that span a thousand years.

Or, discover Prague Castle on an optional tour. Perched regally over the Vltava River and offering stunning views of the city, Prague Castle is more than 1,000 years old and features residential quarters, chapels, galleries, and gardens. You'll also walk through Prague's Castle District, a massive complex including palaces, galleries, churches, and museums, and have the opportunity to visit the 14th-century Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral and other iconic sites, before enjoying an included lunch. Tonight, join your fellow travelers for a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 13 – Return to U.S.

After breakfast, you'll be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

Pricing Summary (Per Person)

Trip Name: Old Prague & the Blue Danube
Departure Date: October 2016 (exact date TBD)
Return Date: October 2016 (exact date TBD)
Departure City: Detroit, MI
Occupancy: Double
Cost Per Person:

Prelude H Deck = \$5,295
 Prelude G Deck = \$5,395
 Cantata F Deck = \$5,495
 Cantata E Deck = \$5,595
 Sonata D Deck = \$5,695
 Sonata C Deck = \$5,795
 Serenade B Deck = \$5,895
 Serenade A Deck = \$6,095

(Price includes international airfare from Detroit Metro, government taxes, fees and airline fuel surcharges.)

Taxes and Fees - (included in the Per Person Cost)

Travel Protection Plan - Highly recommended!
(See details beginning at right)

Motorcoach travel to/from Detroit Metro
(Call us for details)

Tour Cancellation Policy and Travel Protection Plan

Please read the following cancellation policy and Travel Protection Plan. Pricing and coverages are subject to change as we get closer to the departure date for this travel adventure.

Cancel For Any Reason Waiver

When you purchase the Travel Protection Plan, you also qualify for the Grand Circle Travel Cancellation Waiver Benefit that allows you to cancel your Grand Circle Travel Arrangements before your scheduled departure FOR ANY REASON.

Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion Waiver

The exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions will be waived if payment for this plan is received by Grand Circle Travel within 14 days of your initial deposit, for payment for your Trip.

Below is a brief listing of the plan benefits:

Part A - The Travel Arrangement Protection Benefits of this Part A are provided by Grand Circle Travel.

Schedule of Benefits - Part A

Benefit	Maximum Benefit Amount
Trip Cancellation	Trip Cost
Trip Interruption	Trip Cost
Missed Connection	\$750
Travel Delay	\$750 (Up to \$150 Per Day)

Part B - The Travel Insurance Benefits of this Part B are provided by United States Fire Insurance Company.

Schedule of Benefits - Part B

Benefit	Maximum Benefit Amount
Accidental Death and Dismemberment	\$25,000
Medical Expense, Emergency Assistance	
Accident and Sickness Medical Expense	\$50,000
Emergency Evacuation and Repatriation	\$500,000

One Call 24-Hour Assistance Services Included

Baggage and Personal Effects \$1,500
Baggage Delay \$250

**If your Trip is Canceled or Interrupted,
Your Travel Investment is Protected**

If you are like a lot of people these days, you don't just look forward to your vacations, you need them. A vacation is your opportunity to rest, relax, and recharge your batteries. Or to catch up with friends and family. Unfortunately, many things happen that might cause you to cancel your travel plans or cut them short. Illness or injury. The death of a family member. The worst part is, without adequate protection, you can lose your travel investment. The Grand Circle Travel Protection Plan protects your travel investment if your Trip is canceled or interrupted for a covered reason such as injury, illness or death of you, a Family Member, a Traveling Companion or a Business Partner.

If you must interrupt your Trip or return home early for a covered reason, the plan will pay (up to the original cost of your Trip) for your unused land or water Travel Arrangements, less any refund paid or payable, plus the Additional Transportation Cost to return home or rejoin your Trip.

Medical Expense and Emergency Assistance Benefits

If you have a serious illness or injury, the last thing you want to worry about is getting the care you need. The Grand Circle Travel Protection Plan gives you peace of mind with benefits that cover, up to the plan's limits, everything from medical expenses (incurred within 60 days of a sickness or injury that began during your Trip) to special transportation (such as an air ambulance) required for medical reasons.

Travel Delayed? You're OK!

You'll be reimbursed up to \$150 per day (to a maximum of \$750 total) for meals and accommodations if your Trip is delayed for more than 12 hours for a covered reason.

**Baggage Lost or Damaged?
You're Protected!**

It's a traveler's nightmare. You arrive at your destination, but your baggage has disappeared. Or has been stolen or damaged. What do you do? If you're protected by the Grand Circle Travel Protection Plan, you'll be reimbursed up to \$1,500 to replace or repair your lost or damaged luggage and personal articles.

Baggage Delayed?

Need Clothes and Toiletries? Count on us!

The Grand Circle Travel Protection Plan reimburses you up to \$250 to help cover the cost of clothing, toiletries and, or personal items if your baggage is delayed for more than 24 hours while you are on your Trip.

Accidental Death Benefit

Your beneficiaries will receive payment according to the plan's Schedule of Benefits for Accidental Death which occurs within 180 days of an injury sustained while you are on your Trip.

The Travel Protection Plan is Administered by:

Trip Mate, Inc.
9225 Ward Parkway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64114
Tel: 1-800-888-7292

The Travel Insurance is Underwritten by:

United States Fire Insurance Company under Form series TP 401. In KS, LA, SD, TX, and UT Form #'s TP-401 CW. In WA under Form #TP-401-WA. In OR under Form #TP-401 OR.

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**What to Expect:
Old Prague & the Blue Danube**

We will make every effort to accommodate your travel needs and make sure you have a pleasant, memorable experience. At the same time, it is important to note the following advisories:

■ **Physical Requirements:** This trip is not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters. Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them throughout the trip. You must be able to walk 1-3 miles unassisted and participate in 2-3 hours of physical activities each day, including stairs. For your comfort and safety, we recommend this program only to individuals in good physical condition. GCT reserves the right for our Program Directors to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home if their limitations are impacting the group's experience.

■ **Climate:** Due to the varied geography of the regions we visit on this program you will experience a wide range of temperatures and weather conditions. We recommend that you bring a rain jacket and sun-block regardless of the time of year.

Passport & Visa Information

U.S. citizens do not need a visa for this trip. Your passport should meet these requirements for this itinerary. It should be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S. It should have the recommended number of blank pages (refer to the U.S. State Department handbook for details). The blank pages must be labeled "Visas" at the top. Pages labeled "Amendments and Endorsements" are not acceptable.

Vaccinations Information

Generally speaking, vaccinations are not needed for this trip. However, for the latest list of vaccinations that **may** be recommended for this trip, please visit the CDC's "Traveler's Health" website at www.cdc.gov/travel. In addition, we recommend these three additional health steps before you leave on your trip:

- Have a medical checkup with your doctor.
- Pick up any necessary medications, both prescription and over-the-counter.
- Have a dental and/or eye checkup, if possible.