

BLUE LINE – 7 DAY TOUR

GERMANY • CZECH REPUBLIC • SLOVAKIA • HUNGARY • AUSTRIA • SWITZERLAND

TOUR TYPE:

Escorted group tour (English-Speaking)

TOUR NAME:

Blue Line (can be combined with the **Green** and/or **Red** Line Tour)

DURATION:

From 1-7 days (can be combined with other lines for up to 21 days)

PRICE:

£73 (plus mandatory tip of 5 per person per day), land-only price

TOUR PACE:

Lively



TOUR ITINERARY

Monday: Frankfurt – Prague (530 km)

After boarding the luxury coach in Frankfurt, sit back and enjoy a scenic ride through some classic German countryside en route to the Czech Republic. **Prague**, one of Europe's most ornate cities, is your first destination. You will arrive in the evening, ready to discover this charming capital city with its fairytale architecture, the following morning. (B)

Hotel: 3* in Prague or city nearby

Tuesday: Prague – Bratislava (330 km)

Your Prague adventure begins with a spectacular walk along the **Royal Route**, following the traditional coronation path of the kings and queens of old Bohemia. You'll start from the top of **Castle Hill** in the Hradcany district, famous for its views over the red-roofed old city, and then tour **Prague Castle**. The castle has been the historic seat of Bohemia royalty since the 9th century, as well as home to the nation's presidents in recent times. Your exploration then heads off around the imposing gothic **St. Vitus Cathedral**, the **Old Royal Palace**, **St. George's Basilica** and along **Golden Lane**, an ancient thoroughfare lined with some wonderful traditional buildings. Later you will stroll across the iconic **Charles Bridge**, which arches gracefully over the Vltava, and on through the winding alleys to the **Old Town Square**, where you can see the City Hall and one of Prague's most well-known sights, the **Astronomical Clock**.

After lunch in the square, you'll make the scenic transfer from Prague to the Slovakian capital, Bratislava – home to another glorious Old Town. Here you'll pass through the heart of the city by coach, with views of the magnificent Bratislava Castle and St. Martin's Cathedral. (B)

Hotel: 3* in Bratislava or city nearby

Note: Attraction Fee involved:

Prague Castle (ticket includes: the Old Royal Palace, St. George's Basilica, Golden Lane and St. Vitus Cathedral) £13

Wednesday: Bratislava – Budapest (200 km)

Wednesday sees you arrive in Hungary, the fourth country of the tour. Its capital, Budapest, is known as the Pearl of the Danube, and is essentially two different cities joined together: Buda on the west of the river, Pest on the east, each with its own distinct characteristics. One of the best ways of seeing this unique location is by taking a river cruise, which many people choose to do. After a morning of activity, you'll relax over lunch at **Buda Palace**, and then have a chance to look at the exhibitions in the Budapest History Museum and Hungarian National Gallery, or do a spot of souvenir shopping. Next you'll explore both sides of the city on a cultural and historic tour. Highlights on the Buda side of the Danube include the towered terrace of **Fisherman's Bastion**, the medieval **Matthias Church** and a walk up to the summit of Gellért Hill for panoramic views. While over in Pest the sights include the expansive **Heroes' Square** and Hungary's dramatic riverside Parliament Building. In the evening, you can choose to round off an eventful day with an optional dinner in the heart of Budapest, where you can sample traditional dishes such as goose liver, goulash, duck leg and local wine, accompanied by Hungarian folkdance and music. (B)

Hotel: 3* in Budapest or city nearby

Note: Attraction Fee involved:

Fisherman's Bastion £2.50

Matthias Church £7

Thursday: Budapest – Vienna (250 km)

Today starts with a short journey to another of Europe's grand capitals, Vienna, where you'll get to explore the Austrian city's resplendent palaces, striking churches and prestigious art museums. Your Vienna adventure begins at one of the city's most popular attractions, **Schönbrunn Palace**, the Rococo-style summer residence of the Habsburg dynasty, rulers of Europe and the Church for many decades. After lunch in this refined setting, you will take a driving

tour past many grand, famous buildings, including the City Hall, the Austrian Parliament, Hofburg Palace and Heroes' Square. In the afternoon, you'll have some shopping time, before adding the Wiener Staatsoper (opera house) to your checklist of key Vienna buildings. Later, opt for dinner in the heart of the city or visit **St. Stephen's Cathedral**, before taking a stroll in Stadtpark, which is known for its range of sculptures, including the famous gilded bronze statue of **Johann Strauss II**. In the evening, we recommend the option of attending a **Viennese waltz concert**, which will allow you the unforgettable experience of hearing the music of Mozart and Strauss in the place where it was composed. (B)

Hotel: 3* in Vienna or city nearby
Note: Attraction Fee involved:



Schönbrunn Palace £13.30

Friday: Vienna – Salzburg – Munich (440 km)

From Vienna it's on to another Austrian gem, Salzburg. The city's beautiful historic centre, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, is characterized by numerous baroque buildings, and is one of the most picturesque places in Europe. Salzburg is also famous for its musical heritage, being both the birthplace of Mozart, and also connected with hit musical *The Sound of Music*. You'll get the chance to see from the outside the house where Mozart was born, explore the city further at your leisure and also have lunch in Salzburg, before heading across the German border to Munich in the afternoon. (B)

Hotel: 3* in Munich or city nearby
Note: Attraction Fee involved:
Mozart's House £10

Saturday: Munich – Mt Titlis – Lucerne– Zurich (480 km)

You'll leave the big cities behind on Saturday morning and head for one of the world's most famous mountain ranges – the Swiss Alps. The first destination is **Engelberg**, the stunning Swiss resort. From here you can opt to board a cable car that takes you to the summit of the impressive **Mount Titlis**. To reach to the top of the permanently snow-covered Mt. Titlis is by a combination of gondolas over 3 stages. You'll ascend the last stage by the world's first revolving gondola the TitlisRotair, that delivers spectacular views of the val-

leys, glaciers, lakes and forests below, and 360° vistas of the surrounding mountains. At the summit the sun terrace is the perfect place to pause and appreciate the breathtaking panoramas. There's a 150-metre ice cavern through the core of a glacier to explore at the top. Other highlights include walking across Europe's highest suspension bridge for more phenomenal views from Mt. Titlis. You'll come down from the hills to the lakeside for your next stop. Lucerne is a picturesque city of bridges and towers located in what many people believe to be the "true" Switzerland – picture-postcard mountains, lakes, cowbells, Alpine villages and meadows full of edelweiss flowers. Here you will have time to wander through the charming streets, and see the famous **Lion Monument**, which Mark Twain once described as "the most mournful and moving piece of stone in the world". This is a great place to get souvenirs like Swiss watches and fine chocolates, before travelling to the overnight stop of Zurich. (B)

Hotel: 3* in Zurich or city nearby
Note: Attraction Fee involved:
Mount Titlis Cable Car £85 or CHF £92

Sunday: Zurich – Rhein Falls – Titisee – Frankfurt (450 km)

The final day of the tour begins in Zurich, a city with a reputation as a leading global financial centre. There is chance for a picture stop at the impressive Lake Zurich, before moving on to Rhine Falls, Europe's biggest waterfall. Next you'll cross back into Germany and the **Black Forest**, the ancient fir-covered mountain range, which is famous for its creepy folklore and mythical tales. Here you will see the beautiful **lake Titisee**, where you can stop at one of the many lakeside cafés to enjoy some of the region's best Black Forest cherry gateaux. Cuckoo clocks are made in Titisee, making this the ideal place to pick up a few souvenirs from the local shops, and you'll also get to see a demonstration of how these magical mechanisms work. Finally, you'll head back to Frankfurt, where for some members of the group it will be time to say goodbye to new-found friends, while others will opt to stay another night in this major German city before picking up the Red Line tour the next day. (B)
Hotel: 3* in Frankfurt or city nearby (optional- if post tour hotel is chosen)

Notes:

Meal Basis: (B) = Continental Breakfast

Whilst every effort is made to operate this tour as advertised, on occasion it may be necessary to make changes to the accommodation, the routing or order of an itinerary. Compensation will not be payable for alterations to the itinerary or nightly accommodation.

