Connoisseurs’ Prague
April 20 - 27, 2013
Dear Yale Alumni and Friends,

This is an invitation to immerse yourself in the lovely medieval city of Prague, surely one of Europe’s most fascinating and beguiling capitals. The program offers a carefully crafted combination of special behind-the-scenes visits with plenty of free time to explore on your own, absorbing the atmosphere of a place which rivals Venice for magic and mystery.

Home to the Charles University, one of the oldest in Europe, Prague became the imperial city when its founder, Charles IV, became Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire in 1355. Later, Prague played an important part in the Reformation when the University’s rector, Jan Hus, was executed for his heretical ideas leading eventually to the Hussite wars.

Our program will reflect not only on Prague’s ‘Golden Age’ in the 14th century, but also on the influence of the Italian Renaissance, the patronage of Rudolf II, the Baroque era, Mozart and the 18th century, the revival of Czech culture in the 19th century, and the political upheavals and artistic innovations of more recent times. In addition to stunning architecture and a vibrant cultural life, Prague now offers visitors fine accommodations and restaurants, many in evocative historic buildings.

Your tour director and local expert, Harriet Landseer (Yale Class of 1991), has lived and worked in Prague for ten years and looks forward to sharing her experiences and insights – as well as her academic and social contacts - with you.

Please do join us - act today to ensure your place as numbers are restricted.

Warm regards,

Katherine Edersheim ’87
Senior Director
International Alumni Relations and Travel
Tour itinerary

Saturday, April 20
Departure
Independent departure for Prague.

Sunday, April 21
Prague
Arrive in the lovely city of Prague, where six nights are spent at the legendary Hotel Pariz. Built in 1904, and now classified as a historic monument, this wonderful hotel is adjacent to the Powder Tower, the medieval gateway to the city.

Afternoon orientation walk to the cobbled Old Town Square, which is lined with beautiful houses and dominated by the Gothic Tyn church, continuing to the 14th-century Charles Bridge over the River Vltava.

Return to the hotel for an introductory lecture by a local specialist, followed by dinner in the hotel. (D)

Monday, April 22
Prague
The morning will be spent exploring Hračany, the fascinating Castle District. Within the precincts of the Royal Castle, there will be visits to the Cathedral of St Vitus, rebuilt by Charles IV, with special access to the Wenceslas Chapel, and to the remarkable rib-vaulted Vladislav Hall, a Gothic masterpiece.

Lunch will be at a restaurant in the Royal Gardens, where tulips were first grown in Europe. The afternoon is free for independent exploration.

In the evening visit the Lobkowicz Palace in the Italian Quarter, which houses the magnificent family collection of art, including paintings by Brueghel, Veronese, Rubens, Velasquez and Canaletto. After drinks with William Lobkowicz, dinner will be in a private salon. (B, L, D)

Visit the Strahov Monastery, with its vast Library, founded in 1143. The magnificent 17th and 18th-century halls house treasures including first editions by Copernicus and Galileo. We will be shown some of the books from the time of Rudolph II. Special permission has been granted to visit the Archbishop's Palace, with its famous set of tapestries of the New World. There will also be a visit to the magnificent church of St Nicholas, masterpiece of the Dientzenhofer family of architects.

After lunch at the Palffy Palace, there will be a brief orientation of the Mala Strana district, to include the Wallenstein gardens and palace, with the rest of the afternoon free.

This evening there will be the opportunity (at supplementary cost) to attend a performance of a Mozart opera at the Estates Theatre (where Mozart conducted the first night of Don Giovanni) or a Czech Opera at the National Theatre (subject to schedules). (B, L)

Saturday, April 20
Departure
Independent departure for Prague.
Friday, April 26
Prague

This morning explore the evocative Jewish Quarter visiting the Pinkus Synagogue and cemetery as well as the Alt Neu Schule, including a coffee break with the Director of the Jewish Museum. Continue to the Museum of Modern Art, housed in the Constructivist-era Veletrzni (Trade Fair) Palace, for a tour, with a curator, of the extraordinary collection of early 20th century painting.

The remainder of the day will be free, with a private concert and farewell dinner at the charming Villa Amerika, the only Baroque summer palace built by the Dientzenhofers, now the Dvořák Museum.  (B, D)

Wednesday, April 24
Prague & Karlštejn

Today there will be an excursion to the majestic Karlštejn Castle, built by Charles IV between 1348 and 1357. The highlight is a visit (by special permission) to the illustrious frescoed Holy Rood Chapel, perhaps the finest artistic treasure in the country. Master Theodoric’s remarkable wood panel portraits of Czech rulers have been returned to their original setting. There will be an option to hike to Karlštejn.

After lunch at a country pub, return to Prague for a free afternoon and dinner at the atmospheric restored Café Imperial.  (B, L, D)

Thursday, April 25
Prague, Kutna Hora, Trebesice & Kačina

The picturesque UNESCO-listed town of Kutna Hora owes its great wealth in the Middle Ages to its silver and copper mines and Mint. Visit the great Gothic church of Santa Barbara, with its triple tent roof, beautiful vaults and rare wall paintings. This is also an opportunity to see the new Central Bohemian Art Gallery, or GASK, housed in a former Jesuit monastery.

Lunch will be at the charming moated castle of Trebesice. Recently restored from its derelict state by the private owners, it has a stunning art collection and garden. Next visit the chateau of Kačina, a stately mansion with a lovely 18th-century neo-classical library. Return to Prague.  (B, L)

Tour cost: $2,925 per person
Single supplement: $720

Tour cost includes: Accommodation as detailed in the itinerary (Prague - 6 nights); buffet breakfast (B) daily; 4 lunches (L) and 4 dinners (D) with wine, water and coffee or tea; welcome drinks; transportation by motorcoach throughout the tour; entrances to museums; porterage at the hotels; taxes; gratuities to guides, waiters & drivers; the services of a Specialtours Tour Director throughout.

Tour cost does NOT include: International or Domestic flights; travel insurance; visa costs (if applicable); any meals not detailed in the itinerary; opera in Prague; items of a personal nature (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.).

www.YaleEdTravel.org/prague13
Connoisseurs’ Prague / April 20 - 27, 2013

To reserve your place/s, please complete this form and return it with your deposit of $750 per person to: Yale Educational Travel, Association of Alumni, Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Reservation contact: 203-432-1952 or edtravel@yale.edu. Or you may register online at YaleEdTravel.org/prague13

1. Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)

2. Date of Birth

3. Yale Affiliation(s)

4. Address for correspondence:

5. ZIP Code

6. Home Tel: 

7. Business Tel: 

8. Facsimile: 

9. Cell: 

10. Email: 

11. Type/number of accommodation required*

12. Single Travellers: 

13. I prefer single accommodation

14. I plan to share accommodation with ............................................

15. I would like to know about possible roommates

16. Smoker

17. Non Smoker

18. Please charge my nonrefundable deposit of $_____________ ($750 per person) to the following credit card (please tick):

19. Visa

20. Mastercard

21. American Express

22. Card Number

23. Expiry Date


25. Cardholder Signature

26. Date

Acceptance of terms

I/we have read the information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

Signature

Date

1. Terms & Conditions and Tour Information (please retain)

Tour Arrangements

The tour arrangements featured in this brochure are provided by Specialistours at The Ultimate Travel Company Limited, 25-27 Vanston Place, London SW6 1AZ, United Kingdom (www.specialtours.co.uk).

Health & Fitness

All tour participants must be in good health and reasonably fit. Participants must also conform to the health requirements of any country/ies that will be visited. The program involves quite a lot of walking, sometimes over uneven surfaces, and stairs at various locations which may not have handrails. If you have any doubt as to the suitability of this tour, or suffer from any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention, this should be declared at the time of your reservation. The Ultimate Travel Company reserves the right to decline a reservation without necessarily giving a reason.

Deposit & Payment Schedule

A non-refundable deposit of $750.00 (£500) per person, payable by credit card only, is required. The balance is required by no later than February 15, 2013.

Cancellation

Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing by the Association of Yale Alumni. The deposit of $750 per person is nonrefundable. If Yale Educational Travel receives written notice of cancellation 45 to 59 days prior to departure a 30% cancellation penalty will apply. Should Yale Educational Travel receive cancellation notice 25 to 44 days prior to departure, a 75% cancellation penalty will apply. Should Yale Educational Travel receive cancellation notice 24 days or closer to departure, payments are 100% nonrefundable.

Insurance

It is strongly recommended that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance. Participants are free to purchase the insurance of their choice. In the event of cancellation, insurance may be the only form of reimbursement.

Alternations by The Ultimate Travel Company Limited

We will do our utmost to provide the tour arrangements that have been confirmed, but we must retain the right to modify or cancel any tour, flight schedule (if applicable), accommodation or arrangements, if unforeseen circumstances amounting to ‘force majeure’ should arise.

Air Travel

The cost of the tour arrangements does not include international or domestic air travel. Book frequent flyer award tickets directly with the airline. Alternatively, one may book flights with a local travel agent, or on-line with a service such as Expedia or Orbitz.

In order to take part in a group transfer, you should arrive at Prague Airport no later than 10am on April 21, 2013 and depart no earlier than 1pm on April 27, 2013. If you have questions, you may call 203-432-1952 or email edtravel@yale.edu.

Baggage & Personal Effects

These remain your responsibility and risk at all times.

Passport

All clients are personally responsible for ensuring that they have a valid passport and any required visa/s. Please ensure that your passport is valid for a period of 6 months beyond the date of the tour ending on April 27, 2013.

Terms & Conditions

Yale University, the Association of Yale Alumni (AYA), and The Ultimate Travel Company, its officers and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (hereafter referred to as “the Organizers”) act only as agents for the passenger with respect to the travel services on this program, including but not limited to transportation, accommodations, food services, etc. The Organizers are not responsible for any injury, loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, death, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, negligence, acts of God or force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animals, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation, or any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time. If delayed past tour dates, due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this program at any time. Passenger certifies not to have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers. We reserve the right to change the itinerary, trip features or accommodations at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, as deemed necessary by program staff. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the program. The Organizers do not accept liability for any airlines carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Upon payment of their deposit, tour participants indicate acceptance of the above Terms and Conditions.
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Highlights include:

• An insider’s view of this magical city: in-depth yet relaxed, with plenty of free time.

• Special visits and meals at the Lobkowicz Palace, the Villa Amerika and a privately-owned Renaissance castle outside Prague.

• A privileged view of the frescoed Holy Rood Chapel at Karlštejn Castle.

• The option to enjoy a gentle hike in the beautiful countryside around Karlštejn.

• Staying at the iconic Hotel Pariz, a jewel of Art Nouveau style perfectly situated in the Old Town.

Your tour director, and local expert lecturer

Harriet Landseer

Harriet is a History of Art graduate of Yale College, Class of 1991. She lives with her family in Prague (with occasional stints in her native Ireland, and in Andalucia) and speaks fluent Czech.

She initially moved to Prague after graduation to work for Olga Havel, wife of the Czech President. At this point she began travelling in Central and Eastern Europe, developing a particular interest in the architectural heritage, especially the marvellous Czech country houses, and in 1993 leading her first tour – for the Irish Georgian Society. Later she moved to London for several years and led tours all over the world for Specialtours.

Since her return to Prague in 2002, she concentrates mainly on Central Europe. In addition to arranging and accompanying tours, she works as a consultant to the Czech National Heritage Institute, and recently undertook the English version of their website and a definitive glossary of terminology, as well as their coffee-table book on Castles and Country Houses (2010). Her many other special interests include the issue of castle restitution to former owners after 1989, contemporary art in Central Europe, Chinoiserie garden pavilions, coffeehouse culture and childrens’ book illustration.