

## Guided Prague to Vienna Bike Tour

Duration: 7 Days/6 Nights

**charnes tours**  
*hiking and cycling in italy*

### Bohemian Rhapsody

On this tour you ride from Prague to Vienna, two of Europe's most grandiose cities. In between you experience the bucolic beauty of the Bohemian countryside and the alluring grace of the Wachau Valley, a winemaking area along the banks of the Danube River. Prague has nothing to envy to Paris or Rome. The city has something for everyone including a fascinating history, cultural events, architectural wonders, and world class cuisine. In old Prague you can cross a 14th century bridge over a majestic river and climb to a storied hilltop castle. You can savour Czech craft beer at an open air café in the old town square. You can explore Prague's maze of cobbled lanes passing trendy boutiques and old-fashioned bars. Leaving Prague we head east into the Bohemian countryside. We tour a glass factory and see how artisans combine tradition and technology to create brilliant crystal creations. We visit a family-run brewery producing non-pasteurized beers in giant copper kettles. We stay in a 5-star chateau and spa located in the heart of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands. We roll through sleepy farming villages on quiet back roads. The hills are gentle and the views are breathtaking. Leaving the Czech Republic we shuttle to Austria. We tour a fairy tale castle high on a hill and enjoy a birds of prey show in the castle's courtyard. Our bike path zig zags through vineyards before arriving at the majestic Danube River in the Wachau Valley. We stay two nights in a whimsical riverside village below the ruins of a 12th century castle. We tour the Melk Monastery, one of the most beautiful examples of Gothic architecture in Europe. We explore the Domane Winery, producer of elegant and fruity whites. Our cycling adventure ends with a riverside ride to Vienna. The ride takes us through parks bustling with skaters, cyclists, and walkers. A bike path leads to our four-star hotel in the historic center of Vienna. Relax at the hotel's rooftop spa before a celebratory dinner at a local restaurant.

### Route Rating

Moderate: 18-37 miles (29-60 km) of cycling per day over gently rolling terrain. Two of the six rides are flat along the Danube River.

### Meet / Finish

Prague / Vienna

### Highlights

- Six nights in fabulous luxury hotels
- Czech brewery visit
- Crystal glass factory tour
- Castle with birds of prey show
- Austrian Wachau valley winery visit
- Melk Monastery visit
- The Danube River bike path
- Cycling through Prague
- Riding into Vienna
- The spectacular rolling Czech countryside
- Magnificent wine country rides

### Other Questions?

Toll free 1 888 421 2418  
[info@charnestours.com](mailto:info@charnestours.com)





## Day 1 Prague

### Vltava River bike path warm-up ride

*Distance: 22 miles (35 km)*

*Total Ascent: 213 feet (65 mt)*

Our tour begins at one of the finest hotels in Prague, the Augustine, a Luxury Collection Hotel. The Augustine is located next to the Wallenstein Gardens and just five-minutes by foot from the Charles Bridge and Prague Castle. The hotel has a complete spa as well as its own microbrewery. We rendezvous after lunch and begin our warm-up ride. Prague is built on seven hills and is bisected by the Vltava River. We pick up the Vltava River bike path just steps from the hotel and ride upstream. From the bike path you see Prague's history unfold before you. You cycle through the ancient town center, with its grandiose Gothic, Baroque, and Renaissance buildings. Leaving the center you ride through peaceful neighborhoods with Communist era apartment blocks surrounded by leafy green parks. On the edge of the city you roll through swanky modern suburbs with stylish contemporary buildings. Soon the bucolic Bohemian countryside opens up before you with a great river bounded on both sides by quiet verdant hills. We cycle past inviting riverside cafes bustling with cyclists. Further upstream we arrive at a white water park where big rubber rafts and sleek kayaks navigate a fast water course. In the evening we walk to a riverside restaurant for a typical Czech dinner. We savour a slow meal on large terrace overlooking the Charles Bridge, the perfect end to our first day.

### Hotel

#### Augustine, a Luxury Collection Hotel

Prague, Czech Republic  
(1 night)

Spacious rooms provide stunning views of Prague, the adjacent monastery church and the Prague Castle. The hotel has a well-appointed spa, a restaurant, and even its own microbrewery.

### The Ride

**Day 1:** We follow a flat and peaceful riverside bike path out of the city. We ride into the countryside and stop for refreshments at a riverside café.

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## Day 2 Chateau Heralec

### *Světlá nad Sázavou to the Chateau Heralec*

*Distance: 18 miles (29 km)*

*Total Ascent: 1,621 feet (494 mt)*

We shuttle by minibus to Světlá nad Sázavou, a quiet town on the banks of the Sázavka River. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century Světlá nad Sázavou started competing with Venice for crystal glassware production. These factories survived 40 years of Communism and were then quickly modernized. We tour a factory and see how technology and tradition come together to make spectacular lead-free works of art. After a picnic lunch we meander through open countryside to the village of Heralec, our home for the next two nights. We stay at the Chateau Heralec, a luxurious five-star boutique hotel set in a romantic castle. The hotel has a large spa with a swimming pool under the original medieval arches inlaid with a glistening mosaic.

## Day 3 Humpolec

### **Humpolec Loop Ride**

*Distance: 20 miles (31 km)*

*Total Ascent: 1,325 feet (404 mt)*

A short ride on a quiet country backroad leads to the small town of Humpolec home of the Bernard Brewery. The brewery has roots going back to 1597, however the business almost didn't survive Communism. In 1991 a couple of Czech entrepreneurs purchased the moribund brewery and began to turn things around. We tour the plant seeing each step in the beer-making process. Naturally the tour ends with a tasting. The Czech Republic is a paradise for beer lovers. The country has the highest beer consumption per capita in the world and the beers are sublime. After lunch in Humpolec we loop back to our Chateau. Pamper yourself in the hotel spa before dinner.



### **Hotel**

#### **Chateau Heralec**

Heralec, Czech Republic  
(2 nights)

The 5-star Chateau Heralec is located in a romantic castle in the Czech countryside. The hotel offers spacious rooms, a spa, and a restaurant.

### **The Rides**

**Day 2:** We shuttle into the Czech countryside. The ride is rolling. Along the way we pass a castle and a medieval village. Optional visit to see sculptures in a granite quarry.

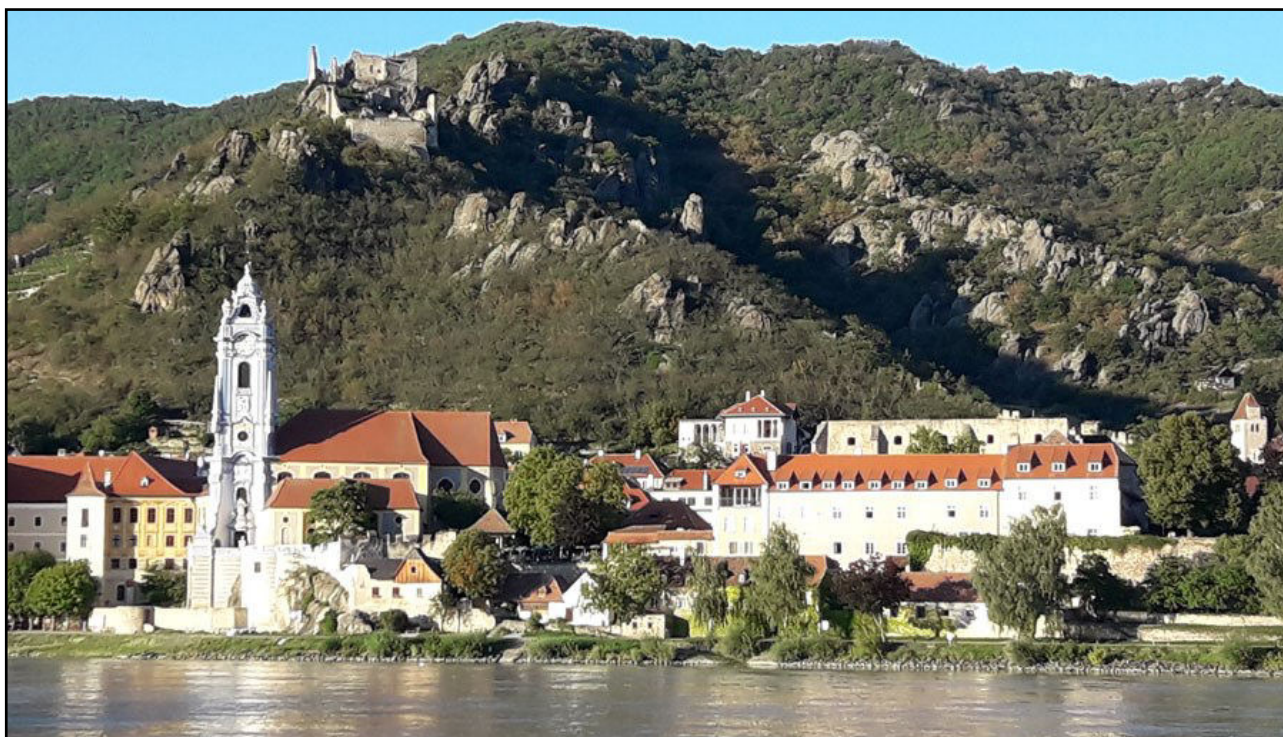
**Day 3:** This is what cyclists call a “lumpy ride”. There are no big hills, but lots of beautiful rolling countryside. We ride through small farm towns, fields and forests.

### **Crystal Glass Factory Tour**

Světlá nad Sázavou is a center for crystal glass production. We tour a factory and learn how crystal glass is made and marketed.

### **Czech Brewery Tour**

Czech beer is world famous. We tour a historic brewery in a small town and learn about the beer making process and the history of the plant.



*Dürnstein, Austria*

## Day 4 Dürnstein

### Rosenburg Castle to Dürnstein

*Distance: 31 miles (50 km)*

*Tota Ascent: 984 feet (300 mt)*

After breakfast we shuttle by minivan across the Czech/Austrian border arriving at the magnificent Rosenburg Castle, a storied fortress dating from 1175. The castle had a turbulent and checkered history until 1681 when Countess Maria von Springzenstein married Count Leopold Graf Hoyos. The merging of these two royal families finally brought peace to the property. Today the descendants of the Count and Countess run the castle. We explore the ancient halls and courtyards. Later we get front row seats for a birds of prey show where falcons swoop at full speed to snag airborne targets. Before departing we enjoy a picnic below the mighty castle walls. We cycle downhill following a fast-moving river that rambles between bosky banks. At the bottom of the hill we arrive in the Wachau Valley, Austria's primo wine making region. This valley is a UNESCO World Heritage site due to its architectural wonders and ancient vineyards. We follow quiet farm roads as they zig zag between rows of grape vines. We spend the next two nights in the cobbled hamlet of Dürnstein. Our riverside hotel is located in a former castle and monastery. For great views hike up to the ruins of the Dürnstein Castle where an English King, Richard the Lionheart, was held captive in 1192.

### Hotel

#### Hotel Richard Löwenherz

Durnstein, Austria  
(2 nights)

The hotel is located on the banks of the Danube and surrounded by medieval walls. The hotel has a romantic terrace restaurant, a swimming pool, and a garden.

### The Ride

**Day 4:** The ride is mostly downhill. We start on a dirt path that follows a river through a forested canyon. The ride becomes particularly pretty as we enter the vineyards of the Wachau Valley on the banks of the Danube.



## Day 5 Melk Monastery

### Dürnstein to Melk Monastery Loop

*Distance: 37 miles (60 km)*

*Total Ascent: 620 feet (189 mt)*

Today we follow a scenic bike path along the Danube River. The ride is delightfully flat and car-free as we roll through whimsical riverside villages. The only climb of the day leads to the majestic Melk Monastery. The Monastery is a World Heritage site and one of Austria's top attractions. Soaring domes, grand staircases, brilliant frescoes and over the top gilded decorations make this an exceptional example of European Baroque architecture. Beyond the church and library you can explore the sprawling abbey gardens. Built for the monks as an area for relaxation and reflection, these gardens are now open to all. The park is a mix of formality and whimsy where you will find panoramic views of the Danube and the surrounding countryside. After the abbey we coast downhill to the pedestrian center of Melk where we have lunch al fresco at an Austrian café. Our ride back to Dürnstein follows the bike path on the opposite side of the river. This path curves gently through riverside woods and off the beaten track villages. Our ride ends at a riverside beach opposite our hotel. Enjoy a well-deserved cold beverage before hopping on a small wooden boat for a quick river crossing.

### The Ride

**Day 5:** The ride follows bike paths along the Danube River. The one climb is up to the Melk Monastery.

### Melk Monastery

The Melk Abbey is a spectacular Baroque masterpiece that sits high on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Danube River. For 900 years Benedictine monks have lived and worked here.

*Chateau Herálec Hotel*





## **Day 6**

### **Vienna**

#### ***Tulln to Vienna***

*Distance: 27 miles (44 km)*

*Total Ascent: 427 feet (130 mt)*

Our last cycling day begins with a visit to the Domane winery. This is white wine country where Gruner Veltliner and Riesling are the grapes of choice. We tour Domane's cavernous underground cellars and taste different varieties. We then shuttle to Tulln, one of the oldest cities in Austria. Located along the banks of the Danube River, Tulln is a quiet town known for its gardens and art. After a look around town we pick up the Danube bike path and head downstream towards Vienna. The path is completely car free and soon enters a nature reserve. The Donau-Auen National Park protects the largest wetlands environment in Central Europe. Despite its proximity to Vienna, the park is teeming with different species of animals, birds, and plants. Slowly the park gives way to the bustling suburbs of Vienna. Entering the city bike the path crosses Danube Island, a 21-km long island that was built as part of a flood control system and recreational area for the Viennese. With bathing, boating, cycling, skating, or just sunbathing, Danube Island has something for everyone. We stop for a well-deserved break before riding the last few kilometers to our hotel. Vienna has embraced cyclists. Dedicated bike lanes crisscross the city. A bike path leads us to the door of our 4-star hotel. Located on the historic Ring Boulevard between the Vienna State Opera and the Musikverein concert hall, The Ring Hotel couldn't be better located in the cultural epicenter of the city. Our tour ends with a traditional Austrian meal accompanied by local Austrian beer and wines. Fast connections to the Vienna airport and train station make for an easy departure at the end of the trip.

#### **Hotel**

##### **The Ring**

The Ring is an elegant and modern hotel, situated right in the city center. The hotel spa is located on the 7th floor and offers panoramic views over Vienna's rooftops.

#### **The Ride**

**Day 6:** We shuttle to the town of Tulln where we begin our ride. We follow the Danube Bike Path downstream to Vienna. An urban bike lane leads us to the door of our hotel.

#### **Domane Winery Visit**

Some of the best wines in Austria come from the Wachau Valley. We tour the valley's largest producer and participate in a guided wine tasting.

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