

# *Czech Republic & Austria*

**CASUAL INN TRIP**  
2005 TRAVEL PLANNER



— THE WORLD'S #1 ACTIVE TRAVEL COMPANY —  
**BACKROADS**

05 BZAQ R1A (11/04/04)





**Notable**  
*quote*

“A journey is a person in  
itself; no two are alike...we do  
not take a trip; it takes us.”

—John Steinbeck

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# *Czech Republic & Austria*

OLD WORLD CHARMS AND THE DANUBE RIVER



Always  
*improving*

While the information presented here details this trip's planned routes, activities, accommodations, meeting and departing times, we are constantly seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Naturally, we will keep you up to date on any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging.

## How to Reach *Backroads*

**BY PHONE** 800-GO-ACTIVE  
510-527-1555

Mon.- Fri. 7 a.m.- 5 p.m. PT  
**BY FAX** 510-527-1444

**WWW.BACKROADS.COM**

From the pastoral beauty of the Czech Republic to Austria's legendary Danube River, this dual-country biking trip brings together two fascinating regions rich in history, culture and tradition. In the baroque city of Cesky Krumlov, where we wander along cobblestone streets and relax over pints of locally brewed beer. In the heartland of Austria, rolling hills reveal fertile vineyards and farms. Making our way toward Vienna, we follow the path of the romantic Danube, riding in the shadow of the imposing Melk Abbey. Add in a dash of warm European hospitality, and we have all the ingredients for a magical two-wheeled journey.

### DAY 1

SEE "ARRIVING & DEPARTING" FOR MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

**SHUTTLE TO HLUBOKA NAD VLTAVOU** 2½ HOURS

**SCHWARZENBERG ROUTE** 23 MILES

SHORTER OPTION: EGGENBERG ROUTE 12 MILES

If you need to reach Backroads on the first day of the trip, please phone the Hotel U mesta Vidne at 380-720-111 and leave a message for your leaders. (If you are calling from outside the Czech Republic, the hotel's number is 420-380-720-111.) **Please arrive at the trip start dressed in your biking clothes, or bring a daypack with your riding gear.** (Changing rooms will be available at our lunch spot.)

Our meeting place, the city of Prague, definitely warrants a visit before or after your Backroads trip. Of all the major European capitals, only Prague remained largely untouched by both world wars, and as a result the city's wealth of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and baroque buildings has remained incredibly intact. With its graceful spires, spacious plazas, magnificent cathedrals and charming houses, the city shines as a living architectural museum. The heart of Prague is Old Town Square (Staromestske namesti) a dazzling space in the middle of the medieval quarter. During the 15th century, this area was the focal point of conflict between the Hussites and the Catholics, and it was here that Jan Hus, the Czech national hero, was burned at the stake. Although the square's physical appearance has changed little over the years, its festive ambience is definitely of the contemporary variety, thanks to its cheery open-air cafés—each replete with a klatch of cappuccino-swilling hipsters—its throngs of wide-eyed tourists and its lively array of vendors and artists.

We shuttle by private coach from Prague to the Hotel Stekl in Hluboka nad Vltavou, a diminutive town resting in the shadow of the majestic mock-Tudor Hluboka Castle. Built in the 13th century, the castle was later "improved" in the 1800s by the powerful Bavarian Schwarzenberg family, once the proud owners of a sizeable slice of Bohemia. The gleaming white structure now bears a striking resemblance to England's Windsor Castle, its towers and crenellations match anything that Walt Disney could have imagined.



## Our Accommodations

*Casual Inns*

### **HOTEL U MESTA VIDNE**

(2 nights) Set within a historic building in the town's oldest quarter, this modern hotel offers tastefully decorated guest rooms, a sauna and fitness center. Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic  
phone: 420-380-720-111  
fax: 420-380-720-119  
[www.hmv.cz](http://www.hmv.cz)

### **GAFRINGWIRT HOTEL**

(1 night) An inviting family-run hotel with quaint simple rooms and a bowling alley. Euratsfeld, Austria  
phone: 43-(0)74-74-2680  
fax: 43-(0)74-74-268-28  
[www.gafringwirt.at](http://www.gafringwirt.at)

### **KIRCHENWIRT**

(2 nights) Austrian hospitality and Danube views abound at this comfortable guest house. Weissenkirchen, Austria  
phone: 43-(0)27-15-2332  
fax: 43-(0)27-15-2332-200  
[www.weissenkirchen.at/kirchenwirt](http://www.weissenkirchen.at/kirchenwirt)

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Before lunch at the hotel, your leaders fit everyone to their bikes and conduct a brief demonstration of bicycling techniques and safety. Our first ride offers a wonderful introduction to the rolling pastureland, evergreen forests, fruit-tree-lined roads and quiet villages that characterize southern Bohemia. Today's route passes through the town of Cesky Budejovice—the home of the original Budweiser brewery as well as the second-largest town square in Europe—and ends in Cesky Krumlov, one of the most stunning and perfectly restored towns in all of the region. Embraced by a tight loop of the Vltava River (also known by its German name, the Moldau), Cesky Krumlov's medieval historic center is an enchanting labyrinth of cobblestone streets, baroque and Renaissance houses, vaulted passageways, shops, cafés and hidden squares. This town is a World Heritage site, with an impressive 82 percent of its buildings registered as cultural monuments. Overhead looms Krumlov Hrad, the second-largest castle in the Czech Republic, whose ornately painted tower points skyward like a pastel-colored rocket. Hotel U mesta Vidne (Hotel Vienna), our home for the next two nights, is located in the quiet pedestrian zone, a mere 50 yards from the main entrance to the castle. Amenities here include a sauna and fitness center. Dinner tonight is a festive affair at a family-run grill, where we're joined by a group of local folk musicians. *Lodging: Hotel U mesta Vidne*

## **DAY 2**

### **CESKY KRUMLOV LOOP 27 MILES**

SHORTER OPTION: CHVALSINY 12 MILES

LONGER OPTION: PRACHATICE 50 MILES

### **WALKING TOUR OF CESKY KRUMLOV 1 HOUR**

The day begins with a relaxing spin along a flat, wide, tree-lined road that leads us into the countryside, past expansive fields and through faded yet friendly villages that seem to have stood unchanged for centuries. We then head up into the hills through the small community of Brloh, which is nestled in the heart of the Blansky Forest Nature Reserve—a pristine area of protected spruce, pine and beech forests. Be prepared for a challenging climb followed by a swift descent to the 13th-century town of Chvalsiny, whose parish church has been recently renovated and is worth checking out. From here, the return to Cesky Krumlov is not far. Back in town, enjoy lunch at a local eatery and perhaps visit the Egon Schiele Museum, which is brimming with wonderful works by the controversial Austrian expressionist.

If you're feeling energetic, you may want to choose today's longer option, which undulates through the tidy countryside and offers glimpses of traditional folk architecture, such as tiny wayside chapels and gabled 19th-century country houses built in the "farmer's baroque" style. In the town of Prachatice, be sure to stop in the central square, which is notable for its well-preserved Renaissance buildings with sgraffito façades. In Cesky Krumlov this evening, we're joined by native Czech historian Dr. Helena Nechlebova, who walks with us through the city and provides insight into its historic and architectural treasures. You are then on your own to sample the menu at another one of the city's fine restaurants. *Lodging: Hotel U mesta Vidne*

### DAY 3

**TOUR OF BAROQUE THEATER 1 HOUR**

**SHUTTLE TO HAAG, AUSTRIA 2½ HOURS**

**MANSION IN THE MEADOW ROUTE 28 MILES**

LONGER OPTION: ST. LEONHARD 38 MILES

Before bidding farewell to the Czech Republic, we walk to Cesky Krumlov's baroque theater, part of the Krumlov Hrad castle, for an informative tour. We then shuttle south to Austria and the town of Haag. After a buffet lunch, including typical Austrian fare (schnitzel, anyone?), we return to our bikes and set out to explore our new surroundings. Today's ride gives us a taste of quintessential Austria: small villages with onion-domed church steeples, corn fields, green rolling pastures, fruit orchards, vineyards, forests and picture-perfect farmhouses surrounded by neatly tended flower gardens. This route of comfortably rolling terrain is interspersed with just a few short steep stretches. We then pedal through the famous Mostviertel (cider district), where a distinctive *most* (hard apple cider) is made. The wine producers throughout this area offer a good selection of locally made wines, as well as breads, cheeses and cured meats.

Ready for some additional miles? Today's longer option offers a scenic yet challenging climb along narrow country roads and past small farms to St. Leonhard, a high spot in the region that affords spectacular vistas. Take time to wander through this tiny village and discover its beautiful baroque church and its Gasthaus, which serves excellent tortes and strudels. Our home for the night is the charming family-run Garfringwirt Hotel. This evening, the hotel's owner provides a how-to on how *most* is made, and we have a chance to taste some of his home brew. Dinner at the hotel includes a lively performance, courtesy of the Schuhplatter dancers. *Lodging: Garfringwirt Hotel*

### DAY 4

**MARIA THERESA ROUTE 46 MILES**

SHORTER OPTION: THE BLUE DANUBE 31 MILES

LONGER OPTION: FRANZ JOSEPH 54 MILES

**TOUR OF MELK ABBEY 1 HOUR**

Today's ride, the longest of the trip, is scenic, swift and mostly flat. After cruising through the countryside past numerous small towns, we pick up the Donauradweg (the famous Danube bike path) in the quaint village of Ybbs. We cross the Danube River three times—twice on bridges and once in a skiff—before reaching Dürnstein, the day's final destination. The bike path is extremely popular, and you'll see many cyclists, with bikes fully loaded, who are spending a week or more enjoying its delightfully flat riverside course. As you spin along the path, views of timeless villages and picturesque churches perched high on the hillsides accompany you. Towering on a bluff above the Danube is one of the most magnificent baroque buildings in the world: the Melk Abbey. In the 10th century, Emperor Leopold gave the structure to the Benedictine monks, who converted it into a fortified abbey. More recently, Melk served as inspiration for Umberto Ecco's *Name of the Rose*. The abbey is still in use by the Benedictine monks,

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who financed part of its restoration in the 1980s by selling a Gutenberg Bible to Yale University. After lunch on your own, we regroup for a tour of the abbey, then hop back on our bikes. After tackling a few small hills, the scenery becomes even more beautiful as we pedal through the vineyards and *marrillen* (apricot) orchards of the wine region. For the next two evenings we are welcome guests at Kirchenwirt, a simple comfortable guest house with views of the Danube, located in the beautiful town of Weissenkirchen.  
*Lodging: Kirchenwirt*

## **DAY 5**

### **GOTTWEIG ROUTE 33 MILES**

SHORTER OPTION: EINKAUFS 18 MILES

LONGER OPTION: KREMSTAL 55 MILES

This morning we return to the Donauradweg and enjoy a pleasant riverside ride through several historical villages. We cross the Danube and continue to the Gottweig Abbey, a World Heritage site located in the Dunkelsteiner Forest, at the edge of the Danube Valley. A few remnants of medieval buildings remain: a chapel built in 1072, and an old fortress, crypt and a Gothic choir. An 18th-century baroque monastery complex and a museum that displays art, architecture and historical works are both open to visitors. From here, we cross back over the river and arrive at the 1,000-year-old town of Krems, a great spot to enjoy lunch at your leisure. After your repast, you can choose to stay in town to shop, visit nearby wineries or pedal a path that continues along the river and then climbs into the surrounding hills for beautiful views of the countryside. Later we rejoin the bike path along the Danube and return to our hotel, where a sumptuous farewell dinner awaits. *Lodging: Kirchenwirt*

## **DAY 6**

### **WEISSENKIRCHEN WALK 1 HOUR**

OR **SPITZ BIKING LOOP 14 MILES**

**SHUTTLE TO VIENNA 1½ HOURS**

This morning you may choose to explore the area around Weissenkirchen, on a walk through picturesque vineyards and fruit orchards. Or you may go for a short bike ride to Spitz, a charming village of narrow cobblestone streets, small cafés and historic architecture. If you'd rather relax, enjoy some leisure time at the hotel. The trip ends with a shuttle to Vienna. Please see "Arriving & Departing" for end-of-trip logistics.

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# What to Know

BEFORE YOU GO



## Arriving

*at the airport*

Please expect airport delays due to heightened security checks. Most airlines recommend that you arrive at the airport well in advance of your flight departure. For information, please contact your travel agent or your airline directly.

For assistance arranging air transportation in conjunction with your Backroads trip, we suggest that you contact one of our travel agency partners, Dimensions in Travel (888-800-5099) or Virtuoso Travel Specialists (800-401-4274), or that you work with your own travel agent.

Note that our travel agency partners, as well as most travel agents, charge a fee for such services as booking airfare, train tickets and hotel rooms.

## ARRIVING & DEPARTING

After reviewing the following information, please inform us of your arrival and departure plans on the Personal Information form.

### MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

On the first day of the trip, we meet at 9 a.m. at the Grand Hotel Bohemia in Prague. The hotel is located in the city center, approximately half a mile from the main train station (Hlavni nadrazi) and not far from Staromestske namesti, or Old Town Square. (See "Before & After Your Trip" for more information on the hotel.) From here, we shuttle 2½ hours by private coach to Hluboka nad Vltavou.

**Please arrive at the trip start dressed in your biking clothes, or bring a daypack with your riding gear.** (Changing rooms will be available at our lunch spot in Hluboka nad Vltavou.)

If you are delayed and miss the Backroads pickup in Prague, it is possible for you to get to Cesky Krumlov and our first night's hotel on your own. (Check to see if the coach is still outside the Grand Hotel Bohemia before assuming you've missed it.) One option is to take the train from the Prague central station (Hlavni nadrazi) to Cesky Krumlov (changing trains in Ceskey Budejovice). There are daily departures between the two cities; the trip takes 3½-4½ hours and costs approximately \$13/first-class and \$9/second-class. Note that the Cesky Krumlov train station is rather far from the city center (about a 30-minute walk), so you will likely want to take a taxi to the Hotel U mesta Vidne (our first night's hotel, located at Latran 77).

You can also take a taxi from Prague to the Hotel Stekl in Hluboka nad Vltavou (the starting point for the ride on Day 1) or directly to Hotel U mesta Vidne. Please phone Hotel Stekl at 387-967-491 or Hotel U mesta Vidne at 380-720-111 and leave a message for your leaders letting them when you plan to arrive. (If you are calling from outside the Czech Republic, first dial 420.) If you are meeting the group at the Hotel Stekl, please arrive by 1 p.m. for the trip orientation and start of our first ride.

### CONCLUSION OF THE TRIP

On the last day, a private coach takes you from Weissenkirchen to Vienna's West Bahnhof (train station), arriving about 1 p.m. From here you may take a shuttle bus, taxi or train to the airport (an approximately 35-minute trip), take a taxi to the city center or catch a train to another European destination.

If you are continuing on by train, please note that Vienna has four main train stations. Check your ticket to find out your departure station—it may be necessary to take a taxi to a different station.

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### Pre- & Post-

#### *trip logistics*

Please note that the meeting and departing times are subject to change. If a change occurs, Backroads will notify you prior to your departure. We strongly recommend that you do not book your flights until you have verified the latest details of the "Arriving & Departing" section with your Trip Consultant.

### FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

We suggest that you fly into Prague's Ruzyně Airport (airport code: PRG). For help arranging air transportation in conjunction with your Backroads trip, we recommend that you contact one of our travel agency partners, Dimensions in Travel (888-800-5099) or Virtuoso Travel Specialists (800-401-4274), or that you work with your travel agent. (Note that our travel agency partners, as well as most travel agents, charge a fee for services such as booking airfare, train tickets and hotel rooms.)

### GROUND TRANSPORTATION FROM RUZYNE AIRPORT TO CENTRAL PRAGUE

Taxis are a convenient way to get from the airport to central Prague, and there are plenty of cars waiting outside the arrivals terminal. The trip takes 20-30 minutes and costs \$25-\$30, depending on the city zone. If you are returning to the airport from central Prague at the end of the trip, you can usually have someone from your hotel arrange for taxi service.

**Important:** Prague is swarming with taxi drivers who make a habit of taking advantage of unsuspecting tourists. At the airport and train station, only use the taxis that are parked along the curb at the official taxi station. To minimize the chance of getting cheated, ask the driver beforehand how much the fare will be (preferably in writing). Avoid taxi stands near Wenceslas Square and other touristy spots. Fares significantly increase after 10 p.m.

*The Cedaz minibus* shuttle runs every 30 minutes from the airport to central Prague, from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. The standard drop-off location is near Old Town Square at Namesti Republiky (\$3-\$4 per person). From Namesti Republiky, it's about a five-minute walk to the Grand Hotel Bohemia (where we meet on Day 1). Prices are negotiable for door-to-door service. For more information, please contact Cedaz Ltd. at 420-22011-4296; fax: 420-2-2011-4286, or visit their Web site at [www.aas.cz/cedaz](http://www.aas.cz/cedaz).

### RIDING ON THE EUROPEAN RAIL

If you'd like to purchase train tickets and make reservations before leaving home, call Rail Europe at 800-848-7245, or visit [www.raileurope.com](http://www.raileurope.com). You may check schedules and purchase tickets online, but for the most detailed and up-to-date information, it's best to speak directly with one of Rail Europe's agents. Of course, you may find that it's more convenient to have one of our travel agency partners, Dimensions in Travel (888-800-5099) or Virtuoso Travel Specialists (800-401-4274), or your own travel agent make reservations for you through Rail Europe.

Some trains require reservations. A seat reservation will appear as a separate coupon along with your actual train ticket; it will specify the train number, class of travel, car number and seat number. The platform where you catch your train will be listed on the small TV screens or on the larger schedule boards in the main station area (larger stations only) 10-20 minutes prior to departure. Look for your train number and destination. It is possible that not all cars on your train are continuing on to your destination, so make sure that you are in the correct car. If you purchase your ticket in advance, you must validate it by stamping it on the day of travel to avoid a supplementary fee on the train. (Look for the conveniently located machines on each

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train platform.) If you have purchased a European rail pass, it must be activated at a ticket counter before the first use.

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## **DURING YOUR TRIP**

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

All rooms have private baths; single room availability is limited. Please be aware that in the Czech Republic, guest rooms are often small and plain (but clean!) and two-person rooms usually have two twin beds pushed together instead of one double bed. Common amenities such as shampoo and hand lotion may not be available in all hotels.

Also keep in mind that in Europe, it is not uncommon to have a bathtub equipped with a handheld shower nozzle instead of a wall-mounted showerhead.

### **MEALS**

All meals are included in the trip price except for three lunches and one dinner. Please note that vegetarian, high-fiber, low-carb and low-fat dishes are not always available at restaurants in the Czech Republic and Austria. If you have special dietary requirements, please indicate them on the Personal Information form.

### **RECOMMENDED ATTIRE**

For each night's dinner, casual attire is appropriate.

### **TRIP GUEST LIST**

During the trip, your leaders will distribute a guest list that includes the names and contact information of everyone on the trip. If you do not want your contact information to appear on the guest list, please inform your Trip Consultant at least 30 days prior to the trip start.

### **TRIP LEADERS**

You'll find that each of your Trip Leaders plays a multitude of roles during your vacation: Guide. Host. Caretaker. Naturalist. Chef. Historian. Trouble-shooter. Interpreter. Their instincts for people, for travel and for navigating a wide range of situations are part and parcel of who they are. Their passion is to provide you with an exceptional vacation—smooth, flexible and tailored to your needs. According to our past guests, our leaders are what truly sets Backroads apart from all other travel companies, and why people return to travel with us again and again. Our leaders' knowledge, professionalism, enthusiasm and service ethic are qualities of which we are proud. We look forward to you meeting them.

### **GRATUITIES**

Gratuities for most services during your trip are covered in your overall trip cost. We are often asked, however, whether it is appropriate to tip the Backroads leaders and what a reasonable amount might be. Although we have considered including such gratuities in the overall trip cost, we have again and again come back to the belief that recognition

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### Helpful *information*

Visit our Web site and  
browse under  
[www.backroads.com/partners](http://www.backroads.com/partners)  
for connections to other  
Web sites full of helpful  
travel information.

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for meaningful service is a personal matter. If you feel that your leaders have provided an exceptional trip experience, gratuities are encouraged and appropriate at the trip end. The amount is at your discretion, but a sum of 5 percent of your total trip cost is a general tipping standard, which can then be divided among your leader team.

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## DESTINATION DETAILS

### CLIMATE

Austria and the Czech Republic enjoy a moderate climate with summertime temperatures that are usually quite comfortable with highs in the mid-70s and lows in the mid-50s. Both countries, however, are situated between two major climatic regions, the oceanic and continental, which results in variable weather. Afternoon rain showers are common, as are cool temperatures in the 60s and high temperatures in the 90s. To make your trip as enjoyable as possible, please come prepared for all kinds of weather! Waterproof, breathable rain gear is a must; a sweater or light jacket for evenings is suggested. Please see “Suggested Packing List” for more details on clothing and gear, and don’t forget to check the weather forecast before you leave.

### CURRENCY

The standard unit of currency in the Czech Republic is the crown (koruna; Kc), which is divided into 100 haler. At the time of printing (November 2004), 1 U.S. dollar = 24.7 koruna. Austria belongs to the euro currency zone; at the time of printing, 1 U.S. dollar = .79 euro. The euro is divided into 100 cents. Paper currency notes are in denominations of 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of 2 euro, 1 euro and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Please check with your bank, a newspaper or online at [www.xe.net](http://www.xe.net) (Universal Currency Converter) for the most current exchange rate.

The easiest way to get cash is to use bank machines, which abound in larger cities and towns. Before you leave home, it’s a good idea to verify with your bank that your card will work overseas. Most European ATM keyboards have only numbers, so if your PIN contains letters, make note of their corresponding numbers. Additionally, most European ATMs only accept four-character PINs, so if yours is longer, be sure to have it changed before your trip.

Traveler’s checks are routinely accepted at larger hotels. Some small hotels, shops and restaurants, however, accept only cash. If you need to cash traveler’s checks, avoid exchange bureaus, which charge sky-high rates. The rates at banks are slightly better, but still expensive. If you’re unable to find a bank, it’s possible to exchange traveler’s checks and cash at airports, train stations, post offices and some tourist offices. If you wish to exchange your leftover Czech crowns at the end of your trip, you will be required to present the original exchange receipt.

### **USING THE EUROPEAN TELEPHONE**

To call the Czech Republic from the United States, dial 011 (America's international access code) + 420 (the Czech Republic's country code) + the local number.

To call Austria from the United States, dial 011 + 43 (Austria's country code) + the city code + the local number. (Each local Austrian phone number begins with a "0." When dialing Austria from the United States, omit the initial "0" or your call will not go through.)

To place an international call from the Czech Republic or Austria, you will first need to dial the international access code (00) and the appropriate country code. To call the United States, dial 00 + 1 (the U.S. country code) + area code + local number.

Many U.S. mobile phones do not operate well in Europe. Check with your service provider before you leave home to find out how you may receive and make phone calls during your trip.

Placing calls from public telephones in the Czech Republic and Austria is inexpensive, and you can use coins or a phone card, which may be purchased at post offices, newsstands, tobacco vendors and some hotels. When calling from a standard, coin-operated phone, a digital readout tells you when you must put in more coins, but don't overdo it—these phones generally do not make change. Phone cards are easy to use and especially convenient when calling long distance, as there is no need to keep inserting change. Simply take the receiver off the hook, insert the card, wait for the dial tone and then dial your local or international number. The window at the top of the phone shows how many units are being deducted from the card.

The most expensive option is to use your calling card. Should you choose to use it, AT&T, MCI and Sprint provide access codes that will connect you to an English-speaking international operator. If you forget to bring your carrier's access code with you on your trip, you can find it listed in the *International Herald Tribune*.

### **TIME ZONE**

The Czech Republic and Austria are 6 hours ahead of eastern time and 9 hours ahead of Pacific time.

### **ELECTRIC CURRENT**

Electricity in the Czech Republic and Austria runs on a 220-volt, 50-cycle current. A current converter and plug adapter are necessary if you plan to bring appliances from home. Converter/adapter kits can be purchased at travel, hardware or electronics stores for \$50-\$60.

Please note that the outlets in the Czech Republic are different from other European outlets, and the appropriate adapter is not always included in adapter kits. Czech outlets have two round holes side-by-side plus a protruding prong above them. Your adapter will need to have a hole through which the prong may pass; or it will need to be flat enough so that it can be plugged into the socket without being blocked by the prong. Make sure you have the correct adapter before you leave home, as they are difficult to find in the Czech Republic.

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### **PROTECTING YOUR VALUABLES**

The frequency of petty theft is on the rise in the Czech Republic, especially in Prague. Primary trouble spots are crowded subway stations and tourist areas, so while you're enjoying the sights, remember to stay alert and always be aware of your immediate surroundings. It is a good idea to keep your cash in a money-belt worn under your clothes. For more safety tips, refer to the Czech Republic Consular Information Sheet on the U.S. State Department's Web site at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

### **HELPFUL WEB SITES**

- [www.czech.cz](http://www.czech.cz) (Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Czech Republic)
- [www.czechsite.com](http://www.czechsite.com) (a nonprofit travel guide)
- [www.czechtourism.com](http://www.czechtourism.com) (Czech Tourist Authority)
- [www.austria-tourism.at/us](http://www.austria-tourism.at/us) (Austrian National Tourist Office)
- [www.austria.org](http://www.austria.org) (Austrian Press & Information Service, Washington, D.C.)
- [www.aboutaustria.org](http://www.aboutaustria.org) (an illustrated tourist, travel and culture guide)

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## **BEFORE & AFTER YOUR TRIP**

### **SUGGESTED ACCOMMODATIONS**

For help arranging pre- and post-trip hotels, we recommend that you contact one of our travel agency partners, Dimensions in Travel (888-800-5099) or Virtuoso Travel Specialists (800-401-4274), or that you work with your travel agent or the hotels directly. (Note that our travel agency partners, as well as most travel agents, charge a fee for services such as booking hotel rooms.) Of course, we also recommend extending your stay at any of the hotels that we visit on this trip. See the sidebar on page 5 for details.

The prices listed are in U.S. dollars and based on double occupancy. The rates were accurate at the time of printing, but hotel rates are always subject to change.

Keep in mind that even in first-class hotels, rooms in Europe are often smaller than those in typical U.S. hotels. Rooms on the street tend to be noisy, so you might want to request a room overlooking the hotel's garden or courtyard. Make your reservations for the busy season early, as rooms book well in advance.

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## **PRAGUE**

### **GRAND HOTEL BOHEMIA (OUR MEETING LOCATION ON DAY 1)**

A beautifully refurbished Art Nouveau town palace conveniently located in the heart of Prague, within walking distance of the Powder Tower, Wenceslas Square and the Old Town Hall. The Grand Hotel Bohemia combines modern amenities with the charm and flair of old Prague. Three rooftop suites provide magnificent views over the Golden City. Kralodvorska 4; Phone: 420-234-608-111; Fax: 420-222-329-545; [www.grandhotelbohemia.cz](http://www.grandhotelbohemia.cz); Rates: \$405; 78 rooms and suites

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## Prices

*and schedules*

All prices and schedules were current at the time of printing, but are subject to change at any time.

### **HOTEL PALACE PRAHA**

Built in 1909 in Viennese Art Nouveau style, this five-star member of Leading Hotels of the World is situated in the prime shopping area close to Wenceslas Square. Considered one of the finest hotels in the city, it boasts a refined elegance and quiet sophistication that has made it a favorite with international travelers. Panska 12; Phone: 420-224-093-111; Fax: 420-224-221-240; [www.palacehotel.cz](http://www.palacehotel.cz); Rates: From \$290; 124 rooms and suites

### **U KRÁLE KARLA**

Perched on a hill near the Prague Castle, this intimate picturesque hotel, blends modern luxury with its historic past. Once held by the Benedictine Order, it resembles a nobleman's home with its hand-painted vaulted ceilings, stained-glass windows, baroque accents and antique furnishings. Nerudova-Uvoz 4; Phone: 420-257-531-211; Fax: 420-257-533-591; [www.romantichotels.cz](http://www.romantichotels.cz); Rates: From \$190; 19 rooms

### **ANDANTE HOTEL**

Centrally located in Nove Mesto (New Town) and just a short stroll from Wenceslas Square, Andante was fully renovated in 2003. The result: Guest rooms are clean, modern and feature high-quality Scandinavian furniture. The cozy hotel restaurant offers a complimentary breakfast buffet each morning and innovative international cuisine in the evening; meanwhile the helpful staff is happy to arrange sightseeing, transportation and more. Ve Smeckach 4; Phone: 420-222-210-021; Fax: 420-222-210-591; [www.andante.cz](http://www.andante.cz); Rates: From \$165; 32 rooms

### **HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL PRAHA**

This large modern hotel appears devoid of charm on the outside, but once inside, your impression will change. As one of the "most efficient hotels in the Czech capital," it provides every feature an international traveler would need, including a helpful English-speaking staff and tastefully decorated rooms with all the amenities. Namesti Curieovych 43/5; Phone: 420-296-631-111; Fax: 420-224-811-216; [www.prague.intercontinental.com](http://www.prague.intercontinental.com); Rates: From \$200; 372 rooms

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## VIENNA

### **DAS TRIEST**

Das Triest is a stylish and of-the-moment boutique hotel. The minimalist décor of streamlined furniture, limestone floors and black-and-white photographs is warmed by touches of bright primary colors, fresh flowers, blonde woods, Frette linen sheets and Molton Brown toiletries. The hotel also boasts the acclaimed Collio restaurant and Silver Bar. Wiedner Hauptstrasse 12; Phone: 43-(0)1-589-180; Fax: 43-(0)1-589-1818; [www.dastriest.at](http://www.dastriest.at); Rates: From \$300; 72 rooms

### **HOTEL CAPRICORNO**

This gem of a hotel is located on the banks of the Danube Canal, with proximity to a variety of sights and just steps from the city subway. Though housed in an unassuming cube of a building, its interior is classy and inviting. A sister property across the street,

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Hotel Stefanie, is home to a terrific restaurant. Shwedenplatz 3-4; Phone: 43-(0)1-533-3104-0; Fax: 43-(0)1-533-7671-4; [www.schick-hotels.com](http://www.schick-hotels.com); Rates: From \$200; 46 rooms

#### **KONIG VON UNGARN**

The enchanting Konig von Ungarn, occupying a building that dates back to the 17th-century, is located in the center of Vienna, a short walk from St. Stephen's Cathedral. Its cheery yellow exterior is complemented by its refined and intimate interior with crystal chandeliers, arched ceilings and lace-curtained windows. Worth noting: tTe hotel hosted Mozart while he composed *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Schulerstrasse 10; Phone: 43-(0)1-515-840; Fax: 43-(0)1-515-848; [www.kvu.at](http://www.kvu.at); Rates: From \$230; 33 rooms

#### **HOTEL ZUR WIENER STAATSOPER**

Located near Kärtner Stras, this family-run hotel provides an old-fashioned atmosphere in the heart of Vienna. Its elaborate baroque facade faces onto a quiet pedestrian street. Guest rooms are simple yet comfortable, and all feature private bathrooms. Krugerstrasse 11; Phone: 43-(0)1-513-1274; Fax: 43-(0)1-513-1274-15; [www.zurwienerstaatsoper.at](http://www.zurwienerstaatsoper.at); Rates: From \$150, including breakfast; 22 rooms

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### **SALZBURG**

#### **HOTEL SACHER SALZBURG (OSTERREICHISCHER HOF)**

A member of Leading Hotels of the World, this 19th-century grand dame sits proudly on the prestigious Salzach promenade, on the shore of the Salzach River, and offers an impressive view of the Old Town and Hohensalzburg fortress. Guest rooms are elegantly furnished; some have balconies. If you crave Austrian sweets, you'll enjoy visiting the Sacher Confectionary Shop, which is located on the premises. Schwarzstrasse 5-7; Phone: 43-(0)662-889-770; Fax: 43-(0)662-889-775-51; [salzburg.sacher.com](http://salzburg.sacher.com); Rates: From \$250; 120 rooms

#### **HOTEL ALTSTADT RADISSON SAS**

Dating back to 1377, this luxuriously converted inn is comprised of three historic houses perched on the Salzach River. Judging by its finely decorated interior and outstanding personalized service, you'd never know that this hotel was associated with a commercial hotel chain (Radisson). To make the most of your stay, request a corner room with a balcony overlooking the river. Rudolfskai 28/Judengasse 15; Phone: 43-(0)662-848-571; Fax: 43-(0)662-848-5716; [www.austria-trend.at/ass](http://www.austria-trend.at/ass); Rates: From \$260; 42 rooms, 20 suites

#### **ROMANTIK HOTEL GMACHL**

Built in 1334, the hotel was originally a tavern for a Benedictine monastery. Chock-full of character, the inn boasts an adjacent farm and sausage shop; homey, picturesque charm; and photographs of the Gmachl family, who've owned the place since the 16th century. The on-site restaurant serves traditional Austrian fare al fresco, and a swimming pool promises to invigorate you after a long day of exploring. Located just 5 miles from central Salzburg. Dorfstrasse 14, Elixhausen; Phone: 43-(0)662-480-212; Fax: 43-(0)662-480-212-72; [www.gmachl.com](http://www.gmachl.com); Rates: From \$210; 55 rooms

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### **HOTEL WOLF**

A Karen Brown favorite, this small inviting hotel is ideally located just off the Mozartplatz (a pedestrian zone). The 500-year-old house has been run by the same family since 1900. Each of the bedrooms varies in decor, yet all maintain a similar ambiance, with fresh white walls and colorful rag rugs on wooden floors. Kaigasse 7; Phone: 43-(0)662-8434-530; Fax: 43-(0)662-8424-234; [www.hotelwolf.com](http://www.hotelwolf.com); Rates: From \$115; 15 rooms

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**Why a Travel  
*protection plan?***

To make your Backroads vacation even more carefree, we highly recommend the purchase of our Travel Protection Plan. Our program is designed to protect you around the world in case of lost luggage, a sudden illness or death in the family or unavoidable yet costly flight delay. Created for our active travelers, this plan offers comprehensive coverage and peace of mind. For more information, see the Description of Coverage brochure.

**TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS**

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

A passport is required for travel to the Czech Republic and Austria. Visas are not required for U.S. citizens staying fewer than three months, although the Czech Republic requires visas for Canadian citizens. For more information, please contact the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Ottawa at 613-562-3875, or visit their Web site at [www.czechembassy.org](http://www.czechembassy.org). For the most current entry requirements for U.S. citizens, visit the U.S. Department of State's Web site at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

We recommend that you make two copies of your airline ticket and the first page of your passport. Leave one set of copies at home with a friend or family member and bring one set with you, keeping it separate from the original documents.

**TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN**

In the pocket of your Travel Planner is a Description of Coverage for a Travel Protection Plan, which covers trip cancellation for medical reasons; trip delay; medical expenses; accidental death; lost baggage; medical evacuation and airline cancellation charges. **Since so many guests purchase this plan, we have made it convenient for you to obtain by automatically adding the cost to your invoice.** We strongly recommend that you take advantage of this plan. Should you not be interested, simply deduct the amount from the invoice total. **Please note that deposits cannot be applied toward your Travel Protection Plan and coverage is not effective until final trip payment has been made. You must have a billing address in the United States or Canada to be eligible.**

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS**

If you must cancel your reservation, your cancellation fee will be determined according to the following formula:

Number of days prior to trip start	Cancellation fee per person
91+ days	\$100
61-90 days	25% of trip price
31-60 days	50% of trip price
0-30 days	No refund

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**Exceptions to this policy cannot be made for any reason,** including those of weather or personal emergencies. There is no refund for arriving late or leaving a trip early.

Single room supplements are considered part of the trip price and are subject to cancellation fees. On the rare occasions when Backroads must cancel a trip, all payments received to date will be refunded, which constitutes full settlement. **If Backroads should cancel a trip within 30 days of departure due to low enrollment, you will receive a full refund and a trip of equal value.** If Backroads should cancel a trip within 30 days of departure because of natural disaster, terrorism or civil unrest, you will receive a full refund only. Backroads is not responsible for expenses incurred in preparation for any cancelled trips, such as airline tickets or for costs incurred due to travel delays, flight cancellations or illness.

#### **TRANSFERS**

You may transfer from one trip to another up to 91 days before trip departure, after which time our cancellation policy applies.

#### **ITINERARY CHANGES**

If unforeseen circumstances require a change in the trip itinerary, Backroads will make every effort to select alternative hotels of the same high quality and to keep the route modifications minimal.

#### **EXPENSIVE ELECTRONICS AND OTHER VALUABLES**

Backroads recommends that you not bring valuable personal electronics including, but not limited to, Palm Pilots, laptop computers and expensive cameras. While we will transport them from place to place during the trip as a convenience, **we do not assume responsibility for any damage, loss or loss of function to the devices.** This policy also applies to other items such as expensive jewelry, fur coats and fragile and delicate accessories, whether purchased on the trip or otherwise.

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# Preparing

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FOR YOUR TRIP



## Safety

*first*

Wear a helmet. Riding without a helmet is extremely dangerous. Backroads requires that all guests wear helmets while cycling.

## GETTING ACTIVE

### CONDITIONING TIPS

You'll enjoy your Backroads trip even more if you are physically prepared. Ideally, by the time the trip starts, you should feel comfortable riding at least 15-25 miles a day and still have the strength and enthusiasm to ride again the next day. We suggest that you bike regularly before your trip and include a few hills in your workouts if possible, as the routes on this trip are quite hilly. While there is no substitute for getting outside and riding your bike, if you live in an area that's not conducive to biking, try running, riding a stationary bike or engaging in other regular aerobic activities to improve your strength and endurance.

### CADENCE AND GEARING

The steady rate at which you pedal is called "cadence." You should try to maintain a fairly fast cadence at low gears. This not only lets you bike for longer periods of time without tiring, but also puts less strain on your knees. Use low gears when riding up hills or against the wind.

### PACING AND ENDURANCE

It's important to pace yourself throughout the day so that you don't become exhausted soon after you begin. Maintain a steady pace, and keep your energy level constant by eating high-energy snacks throughout the day. (Your leaders will provide plenty of food, so there is no need to bring any from home.) It's also essential that you stay well hydrated. Drink fluids often—before you are thirsty—to avoid dehydration. Some people find that a water-pack hydration system, worn like a backpack and equipped with a plastic tube for drinking, is a good accessory on long outings or in hot climates, since it enables you to carry more water and drink regularly without having to stop.

### RESOURCES

There are many resources available if you are looking for more information on how to prepare for your trip. The following is only a partial list of the many books, magazines and Web sites devoted to biking. Your local bike or outdoor store is an excellent resource too; ask to speak with an employee who is an experienced cyclist.

One book that we really like is the *HubBub Guide to Cycling* by Diane Lingelbach. Written in a low-key, highly readable style, it contains valuable tips on how to prepare for an organized bike tour, and includes a comprehensive section on choosing the proper clothing and gear. (To order a copy, call 800-888-2027 or e-mail: [info@hubbub.com](mailto:info@hubbub.com); cost is \$14.95 plus shipping.)

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Visit *Bicycling* magazine's Web site, [www.bicycling.com](http://www.bicycling.com), and consult their Skills page for tips on how to improve your biking skills, as well as advice on proper nutrition, gear, safety and a glossary of cycling terms.

#### **BRINGING YOUR OWN GEAR**

You are welcome to bring your own gear, such as pedals, seat, helmet and cyclometer, to use with your Backroads bike. If you choose to bring a cyclometer, please be prepared to mount it to your Backroads bike on your own; your leaders will be happy to assist you if time permits. We suggest bringing wireless computers; those with pedal cadence functions are not recommended. If your computer is not wireless, please allow extra time for installation and, if possible, bring the mounting instructions with you.

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### **STAYING COMFORTABLE**

#### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- *How do I prevent soreness while bicycling?* Think padding! Padded shorts will make sitting on the bicycle seat a lot more comfortable, and padded bicycling gloves will help prevent blisters and hand numbness.
- *Should I buy a pair of biking shoes for my trip?* Rigid shoes maximize the power of your pedaling stroke, but there's really no need to purchase a pair of biking shoes just for this trip. Any athletic shoes—provided they have stiff soles—will be sufficient.
- *It's not really going to rain, is it?* As much as we don't like to think about it, rain is possible no matter where you travel. Your best bet for staying comfortable during a shower is to wear quality rain gear that is both waterproof and breathable. A jacket and pants made of Gore-Tex will keep you dry in even the fiercest of downpours.
- *Does wearing layers really make a difference?* Yes! The trick for staying comfortable in fluctuating temperatures is to wear three basic layers of lightweight clothing: innerwear (to wick moisture away from your skin), insulating garments (for warmth) and outerwear (for protection against wind or rain). The different layers allow you to add or remove clothing in response to changes in the weather or your internal temperature.

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### **RULES OF BICYCLING SAFETY**

Good judgment and alertness are the most important factors contributing to safe bicycling. Follow these rules at all times to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.

- Make certain you are in good health and able to handle the physical demands of bicycling and any other activities you undertake on your trip. Consult a physician if you are in doubt.
- Wear a helmet. Riding without a helmet is extremely dangerous. Backroads requires that all guests wear helmets while cycling.

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## Safety

*first*

We do not cycle after dark on Backroads trips. If you decide to do so on your own, you must bring your own bike equipped with a white light on the front, a red light on the rear and reflectors on the spokes and pedals.

- Ride predictably, defensively and in a straight line.
- When riding with others, ride single file and maintain several bike lengths between cyclists. Allow more distance when riding downhill.
- Do not use headphones while riding; you might not hear traffic coming up behind you. Backroads does not allow guests to wear headphones while riding on the trip.
- Be as courteous to motorists as you would like them to be to you. If a motorist is having difficulty passing you, pull over and get off your bike. Be aware of sudden stops or turns by motorists, and stay at least six bike lengths behind vehicles to give yourself enough response time. (Increase this distance on downhills.) Pay extra attention at intersections, driveways and other spots where motorists may not be able to see you.
- Keep your speed under control on downhills. Use both brakes simultaneously, but be aware that the front brake is more powerful than the rear. Gently pump your brakes on long descents in order to keep brakes from “glazing over,” a phenomenon which results in less effective braking. Check brakes frequently to make sure nothing is loose or dangling.
- Wet slippery roads require extra caution and greater stopping distance—especially on downhills. Wet brakes must be dried by pumping before they have an effect, so start braking early in rainy or foggy weather.
- Downshift and go slowly when riding on sand or gravel.
- Obey all traffic regulations. Stop at all stop signs and red lights, yield the right of way and use hand signals when turning, slowing down or stopping. Ride on the right side of the road (except in countries where traffic moves on the left), at a safe distance from traffic.
- Be cautious around road obstacles. It is safest to dismount and walk your bike across railroad tracks and cattle guards; however, if you decide to bike across them, do so at right angles. Avoid potholes, metal grates, glass, rocks and thorns. Ride at a safe distance from parked cars and watch for cars pulling out or car doors opening in front of you.
- You must yield the right of way to pedestrians. Do not ride on sidewalks.
- When making a left turn (or a right turn in countries where traffic moves on the left), it is safest to pull off the road, dismount, look both ways for traffic and then walk your bike across the road.
- Listen carefully for approaching motorists. (Look over your shoulder only if you can do so without swerving.)
- We do not cycle after dark on Backroads trips. If you decide to do so on your own, you must bring your own bike equipped with a white light on the front, a red light on the rear and reflectors on the spokes and pedals.

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- If a dog chases you and you are not able to ride away quickly, stop your bike and walk out of the dog's territory, keeping the bike between you and the dog.
- Wear appropriate clothing for bicycling. Brightly colored clothes make you more visible to motorists. Double-tie shoelaces and tuck them inside your shoes.
- Corrective lenses should be worn while bicycling if you use them while driving.

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## **BRINGING YOUR OWN BIKE**

Your bike must be in excellent mechanical condition if you plan to bring it on your trip. Otherwise, you should use a Backroads bike. If your bike is new, ride it at least 50 miles and then have it adjusted by a mechanic. Please bring only one bike per person.

The following items on your bike should be properly adjusted and in good condition: brakes and brake pads; the headset, pedals, cranks and hubs; gears; derailleurs; handlebars; tires and tubes; brakes and derailleur cables; and the chain. Make sure the bike is well lubricated, the wheels are trued, and the seat, seat post and handlebars are adjusted and tight. Note regarding mountain bikes: If you are bringing your own mountain bike on a mountain biking trip, it should have at least 1.75"-wide knobby tires. If you are bringing your mountain bike on a road biking trip, we strongly recommend that you outfit it with narrower tires suitable for road riding. (This will require narrow tubes as well.)

## **TRANSPORTING YOUR BIKE**

If you will be arriving at the trip start by plane, train or bus, find out if there are any special requirements for transporting a bike. You can obtain a bike box from a bike shop or from most airlines. Larger boxes, such as those obtained from airlines, will prevent you from having to disassemble your bike more than necessary. Most bike shops will box your bike for a fee. If you will be disassembling and packing your own bike, the Backroads bike mechanics suggest following the steps below. (You are responsible for reassembling your bike at the trip start; your leaders will assist you if time allows.)

1. Pad all frame tubes using packing material (available at bike shops) or newspaper.
2. Remove the front wheel; then remove the front wheel's quick-release skewer. Place a fork support (available at bike shops) in the front dropouts.
3. Remove the pedals. The right-side (drive-side) pedal unscrews from the right crank arm counterclockwise; the left-side pedal unscrews from the left crank arm clockwise. When you remove the pedals, note that they are marked with either an "L" or an "R," usually on the end of the spindle. (This is important information for reinstalling the pedals.)
4. Place the pedals and the front wheel's skewer in a small box to be packed along with the bike in the larger bike box.

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5. Remove the stem from the frame. The handlebar and stem can be removed as a unit; the cables likely can remain connected. Tie, strap or zip-tie the handlebar to the left side of the bike's top tube in such a way that the stem hangs below the top tube.
6. Tie, strap or zip-tie the front wheel to the left side of the bike in such a way that the left crank arm fits between the front wheel's spokes when the crank arm is resting parallel to the floor.
7. Remove the seat/seat post.
8. The bike is now ready to be packed into the bike box. Place the smaller box containing the pedals and skewer inside the box first; then pack the bike and seat/seat post. (The seat/seat post will usually fit nicely in one of the corners.)
9. Tape the box closed securely with packing tape. Write "FRAGILE" and "UP" (with accurate arrows) on the box using a thick marker. On the box, clearly write your name, address, phone number, destination, the Backroads trip name and the start date.

#### **BIKE EQUIPMENT**

The following items are included with all Backroads bikes. Use this list as a guide for recommended equipment if you are bringing your own bike.

- bike helmet
- toe clips (straps) if requested
- two water bottles
- handlebar bag and map case
- safety triangle
- lock and cable
- rear rack and strap
- wide-ranging gearing

#### **OPTIONAL BIKE EQUIPMENT**

Backroads has a complete set of the following (along with other bike tools and spare parts), and the leaders are available to do mechanical repairs. However, for your convenience, we suggest that you bring these items if you know how to do minor repairs. If your bike is highly specialized, bring tools—and extra spokes!—specific to your bike.

- bike hand pump\*
- crescent and Allen wrenches
- tire levers (two or three)\*
- screwdriver
- tube and patch kit\*

\*Provided with Backroads bike

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# Suggested

## PACKING LIST



### A couple of reminders

Please use this checklist as a guide when packing for your Backroads trip. Remember that quality rain gear is essential for any destination—you'll enjoy your vacation to the fullest if you're prepared for all kinds of weather!

### Luggage

Please limit your luggage to one soft-sided medium-sized suitcase and one carry-on bag. Mark your luggage with your name, address and phone number.

### BICYCLING CLOTHES

- bicycling shoes or stiff-soled sneakers
- bicycling gloves
- bicycling shorts\*
- bicycling tights
- lightweight jacket\* or vest
- long-sleeved shirt
- brightly colored jerseys\* or T-shirts
- bicycling socks\*
- arm warmers
- knee or leg warmers
- waterproof, breathable rain gear (jacket and pants)
- sunglasses

### OFF-BIKE CLOTHING

- clothing and shoes for restaurants (see "Recommended Attire")
- fleece jacket or warm sweater
- walking/hiking shorts
- walking/hiking shoes
- hat with brim\*
- underwear and socks

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- passport
- wallet (credit cards, traveler's checks)
- airline tickets
- medications and a copies of prescriptions
- sunscreen and lip ointment
- travel alarm clock
- toiletries
- insect repellent

Backroads provides water bottles

### OPTIONAL ITEMS

- binoculars
- current converter and plug adapter
- camera and film
- travel iron
- daypack
- personal bike gear (see "Preparing for Your Trip")
- CamelBak or similar hydration-backpack
- Czech/German phrase book

\* Available at [www.BackroadsWear.com](http://www.BackroadsWear.com)

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Tel: (212) 904-1144  
Fax: (212) 695-8352  
info@longitudebooks.com

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The more you know about your destination before you go, the more you'll appreciate the things you see when you get there. The following selection of favorite, new and hard-to-find books was prepared for your journey by Backroads' well-traveled staff in conjunction with Longitude, a specialty mail-order book service. For your convenience, you may call (800) 342-2164 to order these books directly from Longitude. To order online, and to get the latest, most comprehensive selection of books for your trip, go directly to [reading.longitudebooks.com/B48035](http://reading.longitudebooks.com/B48035).

### ESSENTIAL CZECH REPUBLIC & AUSTRIA READS

*The following four books and map are available as a package for \$88 including shipping, 15% off the retail price (Item no. EXCEU27). Any additional books ordered are shipped free.*

#### *Insight Guides*

##### **Insight Guide Austria**

2003, PAPER, 351 PAGES, \$23.95

This guide is noted for its wonderful photography, superb production and informative short essays. It is a highly recommended introduction to Austrian history and culture. (Item no. AST29)

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**Lonely Planet Czech Phrasebook**

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