

# PICTURING PRAGUE

September 9 to September 16, 2011



Rene Jakl

*T*his magical city with its renowned magnificent cathedral, splendid bridges, gold-tipped towers and church domes has been mirrored in the surface of the swan-filled Vltava River for more than ten centuries. Almost undamaged by WWII, Prague's compact medieval center remains a wonderful mixture of cobbled lanes, walled courtyards and countless church spires all in the shadow of a majestic castle that looks eastward as the sun sets. Prague ~ a modern and vibrant city full of energy, music, culture, art and fine dining, all of which we will savor.

Join me as we discover the history and explore the grand architecture of the hilltop Castle District, the beautiful squares in the Old Town and the atmospheric backstreets in Lesser Town. Marvel at the bizarre bone church in Kutna Hora, a city on the UNESCO world heritage list and experience Terezin, a concentration camp--which is certainly not an enjoyable experience, but an intensely valuable one. It will provide you with a focal point for everything you've seen in films and have read in books about the Holocaust and, in turn, will enlighten you to view events in your own life with a new perspective. No matter how you live your life, you will never look at your time on this planet in the same way again.

Through the expert guidance of our photography professional and experienced private guide, each of us will capture our own individual feel of this city and its environs through the combination of moment, light and composition. Get ready to tap into your creative spirit and tell a story through your images.

# ITINERARY



September 8, Thursday: Depart from USA.



September 9, Friday: Arrive Prague airport where a *private transfer* will take care of your luggage and drive you to our accommodations for the week at the **SAVIC HOTEL**, located in the heart of the city, but on a quiet side street. Housed in a gothic and renaissance building still showing parts of its origin back to 1319, the 27-room Savic Hotel blends old-world warmth and comfort with the finest modern amenities. Buffet breakfast is served daily. Enjoy free Wi-Fi connection in the public areas. A rarity even in Prague, the hotel maintains 14th century hand painted ceilings which can be found in many rooms. Original paintings, wooden beams and flooring have been meticulously restored.

Start our journey together at a *Welcoming authentic Czech Dinner at Hotel Restaurant, U Dominikána. \*(D)*



Sample Bedroom



Sample Bedroom



Sample Bathroom



Lobby



u dominiĀna



September 10, Saturday: After breakfast, we meet *OUR PRIVATE GUIDE, MILOS CURIK*, who will narrate as we approach each location and our instructor, *PHOTOGRAPHER, RENE JAKL*, who will show us the best vantage points of this romantic city. Among the sites we will see through their discerning eyes are the *Strahov Monastery, Petrin Hill Gardens* and *Loreta*, a beautiful cloister that surpasses many others in Europe. We will visit the *picturesque houses of Novy Svet (New World)* and Prague's most *architecturally stunning streets: Thunovska as well as Zamecke Schody - which lie under the castle.* From *Hradcany* and *Mala Strana*, our perspective offers a unique view of the rooftops of Prague looking down towards the river. Rene will show us various ways to capture the magic and beauty of these famed attractions. Our morning ends at the *Dancing House*, an architectural wonder affectionately referred to as "Fred and Ginger" and designed by Frank Gehry. We will have lunch at the rooftop restaurant, *Celeste*, which is situated on the top two floors of the building and boasts breathtaking views of Prague castle and Prague's Little Quarter. After lunch, *MILOS* will round out the day by introducing us to other historical and architectural sites including *controversial art* in public spaces, *cubist architecture*, and his "music corner" encompassing *Mozart, Beethoven and Lennon*. Dinner on your own. **\*(B,L)**



September 11, Sunday: After breakfast, on

this momentous date, we journey to ~~TEREZIN~~ with both Rene and Milos. Seemingly frozen in time, this village is a glorified ghost town with echoes of clicking boots and fleeting souls. Though efforts are being made to renovate and inhabit its vacant buildings (barracks), progress is slow and the past is fresh in the minds of the Czech people. As Milos recounts the historical facts, Rene will guide us into the world of documentary picture-taking where~ no doubt~ the images will be worth a thousand words.



Lunch in the nearby town of

~~LITOMERICE~~, with its pretty square etched in pastel shades and the baroque structures of local 18th-century architect Ottavio Broggio-- a perfect counterpoint after leaving the concentration camp. Litoměřice's town square seems like another world, even though the horrors of Terezín are only a few miles south. We arrive back in Prague in the late afternoon giving us time to reflect and rest after the day's events. Later, at twilight, Rene will take us on a sunset to sundown photo excursion to enrich our impressions of Prague at night. Dinner on your own. **\*(B,L)**



September 12, Monday: After breakfast, we explore the Castle District with Milos navigating the way. The seat of Czech rulers and the largest ancient castle in the world, *Prague Castle* was first constructed in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century. The picture gallery, created in 1965, houses paintings from the 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The highlights include works by Titian, Rubens and Guido Reni. We will also visit *St. Vitus Cathedral* which has the most beautiful of numerous side chapels, Parler's Chapel of St Wenceslas. This chapel houses the crown jewels and the tomb of "Good King" Wenceslas. Dating from 1135 and named after the goldsmiths who lived here in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, *Golden Lane* is popular with its tiny colorful houses built right into the arches of the Castle walls. We'll pass the former home of the writer Franz Kafka and the Nobel-laureate poet Jaroslav Seifert. *Lobkowitz Palace* shines as one of the most significant cultural sites in Europe. Confiscated by the Nazis in WWII, and again by the communists in 1948, it was finally returned in 2002 to the Lobkowitz family, now Americans, and descendants of Maximilian, the 10<sup>th</sup> Prince Lobkowitz, who fled to the USA in 1939. It was opened to the public as a private museum in 2007. Highlights include paintings by Cranach, Breughel the Elder, Canaletto and Piranesi and original musical scores annotated by Mozart and Beethoven. Lunch at *U Zlaté Studně*, whose history dates back to 1528. A rumor has it that the building was a gift from the Emperor Rudolf II to the astronomer Tycho de Brahe, who apparently saw a vision of the Virgin Mary here. After lunch, we are off to the *Estates Theater* to see where Mozart's masterpiece, *Don Giovanni*, had its memorable world premiere in 1787. Dinner on your own. **\*(B,L)**

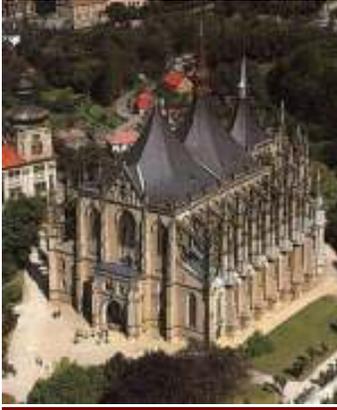


## September 13, Tuesday: After

breakfast, Milos will lead us as we take a 7 minute walk to the Jewish Quarter. (Josefov) Its torrid history dates back to the 13th century when the Jewish community in Prague was ordered to vacate their disparate homes and settle in one area. It is the best preserved complex of Jewish historical monuments in Europe. The still-functioning Old-New Synagogue is the oldest preserved synagogue in Central Europe, built in early gothic style in the late 13th century and is richly adorned by intricate stonework. All interior furnishings are original. We then stroll to the Kafka Museum, opened in 2005. This museum differs from most museums that feature Kafka in that instead of the aim being to just present his relevant documents; this museum uses the documents as a starting point to call up a metaphoric reflection of Kafka's life and work. We will learn about Kafka through emotions and senses. Surely, we will derive a deeper meaning of the term, "Kafkaesque"! Lunch and the rest of the afternoon are on your own.



In the evening, from the Hotel, we will go to the elegant gallery of Antonin Manto-Mrnka, a glass artist whose works sit on the border between functional and fine art. He is one of the Czech Republic's foremost glass and iron artists His work is exhibited in numerous galleries and private collections around the world. We will meet Antonin--- and after creating your very own work of art, we will savor an authentic Czech Dinner right next door to this inspiring space! Use your artistic flair to paint a piece of glass that will then be fired in their kiln at 800° C. This unique memento of your stay in Prague will be delivered to our hotel the following day, already packed for travel!\*(B,D)



September 14, Wednesday: Morning free.

In the afternoon, accompanied by Milos, we travel for 80 minutes to **KUTNÁ HORA**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the silver heart of Medieval Europe. One of the most important royal towns in the world from the 13th to 16th century, it competed with Prague economically, politically and culturally. Among the sites we will visit will be: *The Church of the Assumption of Our Lady and Saint John the Baptist, Saint Barbara Cathedral* ~ one of the most famous Gothic churches in central Europe. Saint Barbara, being the patron saint of miners (among others), is highly appropriate for a town whose wealth was based entirely upon its silver mines. In a venture into the macabre, we will explore *The Sedlec Ossuary* ~ a small Roman Catholic chapel estimated to contain the skeletons of 40,000 to 70,000 people. It's decorated entirely with human bones that were arranged into pyramids by a half-blind monk in 1511. For a needed change of pace, we will then visit nearby **GASK**. This new museum opened in May 2010 in a renovated former Jesuit college. Its exhibits include an interesting presentation of work collected during and after the communist regime. It is the second largest gallery in the Czech Republic~ the largest being the National Museum in Prague.



We end our day with an exceptionally special visit to the nearby *Chateau Trebesice*, a Renaissance castle (complete with moat) lovingly restored by Italian artist Eugenio Percossi and his partner, architect Alberto Di Stefano. Every summer the creative duo who also own an artists' residency space in New York, invite internationally-known artists for month-long castle residencies. In return for room and board, each of the five artists creates a permanent installation. So far, more than 80 pieces of contemporary art are scattered throughout the castle and its ooh-la-la grounds. To add to this unique experience, we will stay for Dinner, meticulously prepared by our Italian foodies with dozens of organic fruits and veggies from the castle's French-inspired ornamental kitchen garden. Lunch on your own (before leaving for Kutna Hora.) \* **(B,D)**



## September 15, Thursday: Morning

and afternoon free to pack, do optional sightseeing... last minute shopping... perhaps a treatment in a salt cave spa? (I'll provide a list of options.) At the end of the day, we have a farewell Dinner at Coda Restaurant on their rooftop terrace that will give us one last look at the unforgettable fairytale beauty of Prague Castle, the Palace Gardens, Little Town Square, St. Nicolas Church and the timeless Charles Bridge. The restaurant was designed by Italian architects Rocco Magnoli and Lorenzo Carmellini, onetime associates of Gianni Versace. They have created a warm, art-deco interior adorned by paintings and statues by Dali, Chagall, Picasso, Kodet, Myslбек and Frank von Stuck. Linger after dinner and be entertained by live music. Lunch on your own.

**\*(B,D)**



## September 16, Friday: Depart by

*private transfer* from Hotel Savic to airport. **\*(B)**

\* NOTE: B=Breakfast ~ L=Lunch ~ D=Dinner (Included)

# ABOUT US

## Ellen Greenberg



Ellen Greenberg began her career in art as a Production and Costume Designer for projects that ranged from music videos and episodic TV to theater and feature films. Most recently, Ellen was Production and Costume Designer for an independent film *In the Key of Eli*, set for release in the summer of 2011. In addition, she has been an instructor at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, as well as guest lecturer at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Ellen has also co-authored an art book, *Inside Chocolate*. Presently, she is the co-owner and founder of Quick Culture, an art appreciation and tour company that provides tours and travel experiences that focus on art and culture.

## Milos Curik



Milos is an independent art consultant, art collector and tour guide. He has studied theory of culture, art history and aesthetics with the philosophical faculty at the Charles University in Prague. Originally, a managing director who established the Jazz and Rock Music Center in Prague in 1974, he also was very influential in the semi-underground cultural organization, Jazz Society, which organized concerts of foreign avant garde music bands that were banned by the communist regime. Among his elite clientele are Maestro Michael Tilson Thomas, (professor from the Julliard School of Music), the managing director of the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and many principals of American art museums and galleries (Frick, Whitney, Guggenheim, Albright-Knox, Metropolitan, Philadelphia Museum of Art) as well as leading American architects.

He has also worked for many TV journalists including Barbara Noe (National Geographic Books) and film and TV teams (Discovery Channel's - Not Your Average Guide, Samantha Brown's Passport to Europe- Prague.) Milos's expertise as a tour guide has been featured in Forbes, The Wall Street Journal, Fodors, Concierge.com and the UK's Telegraph.

Rene Jakl



Prague based photographer René Jakl works both in award-winning landscape and reportage work, as well as on commercial assignments for his photo studio ILUMINOR. Winning the most prestigious photojournalist contest in the Czech Republic twice for the Czech Press, he has also been published by National Geographic. In addition, Jakl has worked on assignment for various cities in Europe, but maintains his main field of focus in Czechia, in both photojournalism and fine art landscapes.

AWARDS

- 2008 - 3rd Prize Czech Landscape Contest - Vilém Heckel Peaks
- 2006 - 1st Prize Czech Press Photo, Nature and Environment category
- 2006 - United Nations Children's Fund Prize
- 2006 - 2nd Prize Friends of The Earth Photo Competition, Resistance category
- 2002 - Photo of the Year Czech Press Photo

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T R I P   D E T A I L S

LIMITED TO 12 PARTICIPANTS

\*PROGRAM PRICES- see special savings on last page

\$3650. per person based on double occupancy

\$3995. single occupancy

DEPOSIT DUE APRIL 30, 2011 -**\$500**. (See Cancellation Policy Below)

BALANCE DUE JUNE 10, 2011

Price Includes:

- Pre-Departure 3-Hour Digital Photo Workshop in Your City.
- Pre-departure materials: Maps, suggestions for restaurants, sights, shops, etc.
- 18-Hour Photography Tutorial
- Private Guide, Transportation, Lunch and Sightseeing in Terezin and Litomerice
- Private Guide, Transportation, Dinner and Sightseeing in Kutna Hora.
- Private Guide for Castle District, Jewish Quarter, City Monuments
- Kafka Museum
- Glass Art Work and Dinner with Artist, Antonin Manto
- Transfers to/from airport
- Breakfast Daily
- Welcome and Farewell Dinners
- Hotel Accommodations for 7 nights
- Hardbound Book of participants' photos of Prague

A total of 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners

Price does not include:

- Airfare
- Optional Activities and Meals that are not Stipulated
- Tips for Private Guide/Driver
- Camera Equipment
- Trip Cancellation and Medical Insurance (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!)

\*\*\*\*Look below if paying by Check!

Post-tour extensions to Berlin and Budapest (Call for Details!)

Call or email for your Reservation Form

 310.273.9596

 [ArtandCulturalJourneys@QuickCulture.com](mailto:ArtandCulturalJourneys@QuickCulture.com)

\*\*\*\*Special Savings for payment by check (scroll down)

\$3450 per person based on double occupancy

\$3795 single occupancy

DEPOSIT DUE APRIL 30, 2011 **-\$500.** (See Cancellation Policy Below)

BALANCE DUE JUNE 10, 2011

**CANCELLATION POLICY:**

All requests for cancellation must be made in writing to:

Picturing Prague  
9190 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 125,  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

The following cancellation fees apply:

Before March 30: Deposit Fully Refundable

March 30 - June 10: \$100. of Deposit is Refunded

After June 10: No Refund on Deposit and/or Paid Balance