

BOOKING FORM

(PLEASE USE **BLOCK LETTERS**)

I/We wish to attend the 2024 Tour of The Great Houses and Gardens of Bohemia and Moravia and would like to reserve accommodation in a **single/shared** room. I enclose a cheque for **£300** per person (a non-returnable deposit) made payable to: **WESSEX FINE ART STUDY COURSES**,

OR I am or we are paying £_____ into the following account:
Wessex Fine Art Study Courses, Account no.76898668
Sort Code: 30-99-71

Reservations should be sent to: WFASC Enrolments,
Church Cottage, Beauworth, Alresford, Hants O24 0PA
OR scanned and emailed to: wfasc-tours@wfasc.co.uk

[1] Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other (please include first name)

Address

Postcode Telephone

Email

[2] Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other (please include first name)

Address

Postcode Telephone

Email

I/We will obtain a ticket on the recommended flight ☐

I/We will make our own travel arrangements ☐

Signature

Date

PRACTICALITIES

The **8-day** tour will cost **£2985 per person** in a twin-bedded or double room, **£275 single supplement**. The fees include 7 nights accommodation in 3- and 4-star hotels, five dinners and four lunches, with wine, all coach transport, all entrance fees and gratuities, and the services of the lecturer and Czech tour leader.

*The cost does **not** include the air flight.*

The most convenient scheduled direct flights are:

May 13 BA 0862 Departs London/ Heathrow 1015 arrives Prague 1325

May 20 BA0861 Departs Prague 1720 arrives LHR 1825.

The return flight cost is approximately £150.

It is advisable to book early.

Please check a place is available before booking your flight. You can of course arrange to have extra time in Prague before or after the tour.

Airline tickets can be obtained on line or through your local travel agent

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellation charges are as follows:

56 days or more before start of course - loss of deposit
55 - 43 days before start of course - 50% of the total
42 - 29 days before start of course - 60% of the total
28 - 22 days before start of course - 85% of the total
21 - 0 days before start of course - 100% of the total

It is a condition of booking that you arrange travel insurance to protect yourself against loss. In the unlikely event of cancellation by WFASC we undertake to refund to you in full within 14 days all monies paid to us in course fees.



Wessex Fine Art Tours

GREAT HOUSES AND GARDENS OF BOHEMIA & MORAVIA (Czech Republic)

13-20 May, 2024



Organiser:

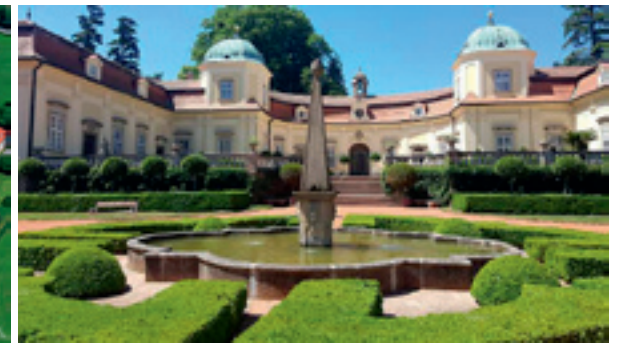
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wfasc.co.uk

Please visit our website: www.wfasc.co.uk



GREAT PALACES AND GARDENS OF BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA

The Czech Republic, comprising the historic provinces of Bohemia and Moravia has one of the richest concentrations of great houses in Europe, many with significant gardens, including some of European importance and UNESCO World Heritage listed. In the Renaissance the country was a powerful and wealthy independent kingdom and we shall see some of the magnificent palaces and villas with associated gardens created by the nobility during this period. Later Bohemia and Moravia became a part of the mighty Austrian Habsburg Empire and during the 17th and 18th centuries there was a building and gardening boom as the aristocracy built summer seats and grand hunting lodges in the Czech lands as well as creating palatial town houses with gardens in Prague and Vienna. We shall visit some outstanding Baroque gardens from this period, including Kroměříž (UNESCO World Heritage). Whereas at this time Italy and France were the major influences on garden design, in the late 18th and 19th centuries the nobility were much influenced by developments in Britain. The result is the creation of numerous romantic landscape gardens in the English style, of which the greatest is the remarkable landscape garden at Lednice in South Moravia, which we shall visit, now an UNESCO World Heritage site.

The Czech Republic suffered greatly during the Communist regime (1948-1989) and many of the country's magnificent buildings and gardens were neglected and abused. However the last forty years has seen an astonishing programme of restoration both in country houses and gardens, so it is a propitious and exciting time to visit. Our programme will include gardens of all periods, as well as visits to some of the most important châteaux. Additional delights we shall enjoy are the many picturesque unspoilt little towns and the quiet beauty of the deeply forested undulating countryside.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Monday May 13 Fly BA 0862 Depart 1015 London Heathrow arriving Prague 1325. Transfer to Prague Castle and coffee break. We visit the **Royal Gardens** of Prague castle and see the **Renaissance Summer Palace** (1537-69) with its **Singing Fountain** (1563). We walk down through the great **Fürstentberg Gardens** to Prague Mala Strana (Lesser Town), where we enjoy a group dinner. First night in the Hotel Monastery Garden quietly situated a few minutes walk from the Old Town Square.

Tuesday May 14 Morning visit to the **Wallenstein palace gardens** (1620s), **Vrtba Gardens** (1720) and the recently restored C18 **Baroque terraced gardens** below the castle. Afternoon visit to **Průhonice**, a late C19 landscape park, containing many beautiful trees and exotic plants and an important Botanic Garden. Second night in Prague. Independent dinner.

Wednesday May 15 We travel south to **Dobříš**, a fine Rococo château (exterior only) with a delightful Baroque garden (c.1765). Drive to **Kratochvíle** for lunch, and visit the beautiful moated richly decorated Renaissance villa with restored gardens. Overnight and dinner at Hotel Štekl in Hluboká nad Vltavou.

Thursday May 16 Jindřichův Hradec is one of the most spectacular Renaissance châteaux with a sumptuously decorated **Garden Pavilion** (1591-93). Included lunch. Brief visit to **Telč**, the most enchanting of Moravian towns (UNESCO World Heritage). Afternoon visit to **Jaroměřice nad Rokytinou**, a palace with spectacular interiors and Baroque garden. Dinner and overnight at Hotel Galant, Lednice, South Moravia.

Friday May 17 Morning visit to **Lednice**, the former summer palace of the Liechtenstein family, who created one of Europe's finest romantic landscape parks. (UNESCO World Heritage). After visiting the château we take a boat to the Moorish Minaret and explore some of the follies. Independent lunch. Late afternoon we drive to **Kroměříž** (UNESCO World Heritage). Two nights and one dinner included at the Hotel Octárna, Kroměříž.

Saturday May 18 Buchlovice, a beautiful Italianate Baroque villa, set in important gardens. Afternoon at **Kroměříž**, one of the greatest Baroque *ensembles* in Central Europe. The early Baroque **Flower Garden** (1660s) is one of the most remarkable gardens of its period, adorned with pavilions, grottoes and water features. We also visit the Archbishop's richly decorated **Baroque palace** where the beautiful *sala terrena* is a special feature. Lunch and dinner are independent. Second night in Kroměříž.

Sunday May 19 We visit **Castolovice** (provisional), a private Renaissance château where we have lunch. Afternoon at the château **Nové Město nad Metují** with its unique Art Nouveau interior, created by the architect Dušan Jurkovič, who also laid out the garden, one of the last to be created before 1914. Included dinner and overnight in the Hotel Rajská Zahrada in the charming Renaissance town of Nové Město nad Metují.

Monday May 20 The recent restoration of the remarkable complex of **Kuks**, created by Count Sporck from 1707, consisting of a hospital, chapel and gardens has won a European Heritage award. We also visit Spork's most personal creation, the **Bethlehem Wood**, where the great Mathias Braun sculpted sacred images out of the rock in a remarkable fusion of art and nature. After an included lunch we drive to Prague Airport for our return flight **EA0861** departing Prague 1720 arriving London Heathrow 1825.

THE TOUR LEADER

Barbara Peacock MA FRSA has travelled extensively through the Czech Republic since the early 1990s and has taken many Study Tours to Bohemia and Moravia. She is founder and director of Wessex Fine Art Study Courses and lectures in Britain and abroad for organisations such as the National Trust, the Art Fund and the Arts Society. She was formerly Assistant Keeper in the Department of Fine Art at Birmingham City Art Gallery and subsequently Adult Education Tutor in Fine Art at Southampton University. She is co-founder of The Friends of Czech Heritage and in 2015 was awarded the Czech Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in the Czech Republic.