

Powerhouse Discovery Tours

ph^m powerhouse museum
science + design

in association with Renaissance Tours

Kings & Castles of Bohemia

25 May – 8 June 2009

with Dr Jana Vytrhlik &
Jolyon Warwick James



Take a fascinating journey deep into the heart of Bohemia which goes beyond the famous sites and cities to lift the lid on other wonderful and little-known fiefdoms owing fidelity to the king. By day you will explore renowned UNESCO World Heritage sites like the historic centres of Prague and Český Krumlov, as well as enchanting villages and their ancient castles which have recently been returned to their former glory. At night, there will be plenty of opportunities to experience the local nightlife and savour the wonderful cuisine and wines of the region. Meet the new generation of the families who have recently reclaimed their heritage and have opened their magnificent castles and treasures to visitors.

The tour will be led by the Czech-born art historian Dr Jana Vytrhlik of the Powerhouse Museum and antique silver expert and historian Jolyon Warwick James, who will

introduce you to the extraordinary collections of old masters, furniture, silver, ceramics, textiles, historical weapons and decorative arts housed in these castles.

Special highlights include a private viewing of the Lobkowitz and other art collections. There will be behind-the-scenes and curator-led visits to the Jewish Museum and the Decorative Arts Museum in Prague, the collection of Bohemian Gothic art at Hluboká Castle, and the armoury collections within the castles of Český Šternberk and Rožmberk. Also, an exclusive tour of the castle Březnice will include a viewing of the oldest renaissance library in Bohemia, dating from 1558.

This tour offers a unique opportunity to discover the spectrum of the Czech way of life – art, culture and gastronomy – as experienced by their kings, princes and paupers!



JANA VYTRHLIK & JOLYON WARWICK JAMES

Jana was born and educated in Prague where she studied the Theory and History of Fine Art. After completing her doctoral thesis she joined the curatorial team at the Jewish Museum in Prague. Jana lived in Austria and New Zealand before arriving in Australia in 1986. She joined the Powerhouse Museum in 1986 and was appointed Head of the Education and Program Development Department in 1996. Her work at the Powerhouse has included curatorial as well as managerial responsibilities. She has conducted museum and art history tours since her University days in Prague. Jana holds NAATI accreditation (since 1995) in the Czech and English language and works as an independent interpreter and translator for the Consulate General in Sydney.

Jolyon grew up in London and is postgraduate educated with a London University degree. For 35 years he has acted as a professional consultant, and lecturer, with respect to English, European and Colonial silver. He is recognised internationally through his articles, lectures, and personal representations. He works with Museums, Government bodies, commercial enterprises, collectors and educational organisations both within Australia and overseas. Jolyon lectures for the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies in the UK and he is President of the NSW Chapter of the Australian Antique and Art Dealers Association. He is an Australian Government Expert Examiner under the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act and is approved to value silver for the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program. Jolyon is an Honorary Associate of the Powerhouse Museum.



THEOLOGICAL HALL - STRAHOV MONASTERY, PRAGUE | PHOTO COURTESY CZECH TOURISM

SUN 24 MAY 2009 DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart Australia on Korean Airlines flight to Prague, via Seoul. Arrive Seoul at approximately 5.40pm and transfer to your airport hotel (included in the cost of the Korean Airlines airfare) for overnight.

MON 25 MAY SEOUL – PRAGUE

After a complimentary breakfast, transfer from your Seoul hotel to the airport for your onward flight to Prague (departing at 1.25pm), which arrives at around 5.40pm. On arrival, transfer to your hotel which is within easy walking distance of Prague's magnificent Old Town Square. This evening, join Jana Vytrhlik, Jolyon Warwick James and your fellow group members at a special welcome reception. (Welcome reception)

TUE 26 MAY PRAGUE

Begin your discovery with a walk through Prague's Old Town and over the Gothic Charles Bridge, built in 1347. Your steps will follow the Bohemian kings' historical coronation route to **Prague Castle**. Here, in the Royal Palace, is the starting point for the theme of the 'Kings and Castles of Bohemia' tour. The castle complex, dating from the 9th century, looks out over the city and has witnessed the fortunes of many of Bohemia's kings, princes and its people. The castle has incorporated the palace of the powerful Catholic Lobkowitz family since the beginning of the 17th century. Here you will dine in the Lobkowitz Palace Restaurant and enjoy a private viewing of the **Lobkowitz Palace** collection of dynastic treasures – paintings by Bruegel and Canaletto, a large collection of arms and armour, musical instruments, ceramics, silver and manuscripts related to the patronage of Beethoven. (BL)

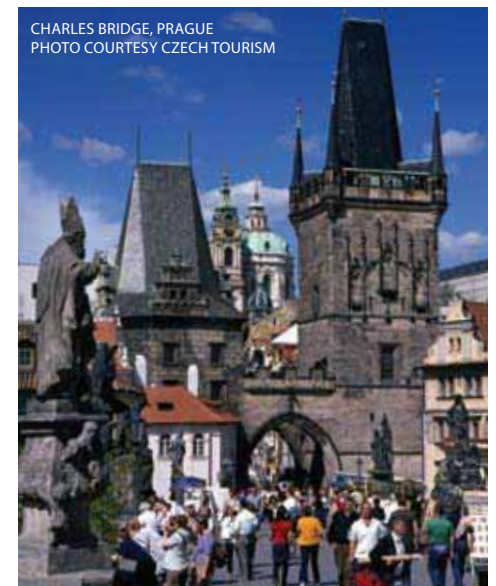
WED 27 MAY PRAGUE

Today, a brief journey will take you north of Prague to visit another Lobkowitz property, **Nelahozeves Castle**, housing a magnificent collection of old masters. The chateau is one of Bohemia's purest renaissance buildings. Owned by the Lobkowitz family since 1623, it was seized by the communists and later restituted after the fall of the regime in 1989. Lunch with a wine tasting of the dynasty's own vintages will be served in Nelahozeves castle restaurant before you travel to nearby ruined **Okoř Castle**. Here you find

the remains of a once magnificent renaissance residence. Initially a Gothic chapel dating from 1260 -70, by 1359 it had become the fortified residence of František of Rokycany – a friend and ally of King Charles IV (who gave his name to the bridge in Prague). Remodelled in the renaissance style it was forfeited during the 30 years war (1618 – 1648) and given to the Jesuits who were evicted in 1773, whereupon it fell into ruin. (BL)

THU 28 MAY PRAGUE

Your last day of discovery in Prague includes a morning visit to Prague Decorative Arts Museum. Here you will see the objects once used by kings, princes and others of fortune which were found in their castles and palaces. The museum holds Bohemian and European decorative arts as well as Czech arts, crafts, applied art, and designs. Notable are the collections of glass (old and new) and clocks. At lunchtime you will taste an authentic kosher lunch at the Jewish Town Hall of Prague. In the afternoon you will visit the world famous Jewish Museum and Jewish Quarter with an expertly guided tour. Many Bohemian castle townships included Jewish communities, and drew on their skills and trades. These have now largely disappeared except in Prague where the historical synagogues, the cemetery, and the Jewish Museum document these lost Bohemian communities. Later in the day, and just a short walk from your hotel, you will enjoy a unique performance of *Don Giovanni*



CHARLES BRIDGE, PRAGUE
PHOTO COURTESY CZECH TOURISM

by the National Marionette Theatre. This opera was composed by Mozart and conducted by him in Prague in 1787 at its debut performance. The presentation by marionettes reflects an important traditional cultural art form in Bohemia. (BL)

FRI 29 MAY

PÍSEK

Leaving our Prague base, an hour on the bus takes us south to **Březnice Castle**. This was originally a Gothic fortress, rebuilt during 16-17th century becoming a renaissance chateau. On your exclusive tour of the castle you will see the oldest renaissance library in Bohemia, dating from 1558. The castle was confiscated from the owners in 1945, due to suspected German collaboration, and never was returned, being now run by the state. In the afternoon you will continue your journey south to the historical town Písek, famous for the **Písek Castle** and its Gothic bridge. Dating from the mid 13th century, the castle was built as the King's residential castle (Premislav II). The old fabric is now integrated with the new and it is now an award winning municipal Museum. There are displays of the local industries important to this castle's life and its township's prosperity such as goldmining, fishing and agriculture. The bridge dates from the late 13th century and is the oldest preserved stone bridge in Bohemia. (BL)

SAT 30 MAY

PÍSEK

In the morning you travel to the attractively moated **Blatná Castle**, originally a Gothic fortress with a later renaissance wing designed by royal architect Benedikt Rejt around 1530. It was partly rebuilt in the mid 19th century and currently, there is interesting restoration in progress. Surviving murals date from the middle of the 15th century. There are lovely grounds with deer, peacocks, and boating on the lake (moat). This is a very interesting privately owned residential castle, confiscated and then returned to the owners after the fall of communism. You will have the opportunity to meet the owners and will have a leisurely lunch in the castle. (BL)

SUN 31 MAY

PÍSEK

On a cliff top promontory surrounded by water, **Orlík Castle** was built on a mid 13th century site. Early in the 19th century, Prince Karel Schwarzenberg altered it to its imposing present neo-Gothic structure. It is home to the Orlík branch of the Schwarzenberg family and you will have a private guided tour of its fine collection of Empire furniture, old masters, weapons, military uniforms and other militaria. Later, transfer from Orlík by scenic boat trip to **Zvíkov Castle**, enjoying a leisurely picnic lunch along the way. This interesting semi ruined pile, originally 13th century, was restored in late 19th century. However it fell into ruin and its fortunes make an interesting comparison with Orlík. (B, packed Lunch, D)

MON 01 JUNE

HLUBOKÁ CASTLE

Brewing was an essential part of castle life! České Budějovice town received Royal permission (from Premislav II) for brewing in 1265. It has produced beer ever since – from the famous



ČESKÝ KRUMLOV CASTLE MASQUERADE HALL MURALS

Budweiser brewery. Here you tour the brewery, sample the beer and have lunch en route to your next hotel destination situated within Hluboká castle walls. (BL)

TUE 02 JUNE

HLUBOKÁ CASTLE

Wake up in a castle! Built on an earlier site, **Hluboká Castle** dates from 1840s – the whim of Prince Johann Adolf II Schwarzenberg. Intentionally resembling Windsor Castle, it is an example of the enormous mid 19th century wealth of the largest landowners in Bohemia. It houses vast state collections of furniture, paintings, porcelain, arms and Gothic art and artefacts. It has a magnificent English park with rare European plant species. How were the inhabitants of a castle fed? Your exclusive tour will include the important and fascinating original kitchens of the 19th and early 20th century – still in use up to 1947. This Schwarzenberg property was not restituted and is now run by the state. (BD)

WED 03 JUNE

HLUBOKÁ CASTLE

Founded in the middle of the 13th century, rebuilt and enlarged during renaissance and baroque periods **Český Krumlov Castle** was owned by Rožmberk family from 1302 – 1602. Later, it was in the hands of the Schwarzenbergs from 1719 till 1945. It was then confiscated, not restituted and is now run by the state. Visit this vast castle and its collections and have time to roam the town's cobbled streets and alleys. In

the afternoon you travel to **Rožmberk Castle**, one of the oldest castles in South Bohemia, dating from the 13th century. It was originally the seat of the Rožmberk family, the most powerful in Bohemia after the king. Perched high on a promontory above a sharp bend in the Vltava river, Rožmberk Castle is surrounded by forest. It is a good example of a castle with small satellite township, and has the remnants of a Jewish community (cemetery). The last owners, the Buquoy, died out and in the 1920s the castle reverted to the state who administer it. After a tour of the castle and its collections you dine in a Rožmberk restaurant. The menu reflects what the river and the surrounding forest yield – vital sources of local sustenance in the Middle Ages. (BD)

THU 04 JUNE

JINDŘICHŮV HRADEC

In 1583 Vilem of Rožmberk built **Kratochvíle Castle**. This unequalled renaissance Italian Bohemian hunting lodge is your morning's tour. Original interiors are intact, including murals. Look out (and up) for an elephant and a very early depiction of a rhinoceros – they are on the ceiling. Original settings include the dining room, the library and the chapel. There are splendid ornamental gardens and water surrounds. It was in Schwarzenberg ownerships from 1719 to 1922, and is now state owned and run. Head for your next base in Jindřichův Hradec, where you will stay right on the main square of this delightful mediaeval town. (BL)



ČERVENÁ LHOTA CHATEAU
PHOTO COURTESY CZECH TOURISM



FRI 05 JUNE JINDŘICHŮV HRADEC

Jindřichův Hradec Castle and medieval town represent a tour theme summary of Bohemian castle life, development and function. The castle still has original parts from the Gothic, renaissance and baroque periods, and from the 19th century. There are matching original interiors and examples of castle industries; particularly notable are the mediaeval kitchen, renaissance pavilion and the dungeon! You will spend the day exploring all facets of the castle with your expert Castellan, and you will visit the nearby tapestry workshop. (B,D)

SAT 06 JUNE JINDŘICHŮV HRADEC

In the morning visit **Červená Lhota Castle**. Originally a 14th century Gothic water fortress, it was rebuilt in the mid 19th century as a small chateau. Confiscated complete with contents from the owners in 1945, it is now state run. It has extraordinary charm and romanticism. This is enhanced by its miniature format, water surrounds and sense of complete habitability. It has a very interesting survival story during the communist regime! On your way back to lunch, visit a ropemaking museum and workshop – another industry important to ‘castle life’. The afternoon is free. (B,L)

SUN 07 JUNE PRAGUE

Your final destination is another example of the living symbiosis between a castle and a township. **Český Šternberk Castle** has been in the Šternberk family since 1479. From 1948 to 1989 there was an awkward period of communist ‘administration’ when, uniquely, the owners were allowed to live and work in ‘their’ confiscated castle. The owners still reside there today, although now the castle is fully restituted with all its wonderful interiors and collections, which you will see on your private guided tour. Finally, enjoy a special farewell lunch at the Šternberk castle restaurant, before continuing to Prague. (B,L)

MON 08 JUNE RETURN

Tour ends after breakfast. Transfer to the airport for your return flight to Australia. (B)

YOUR HOTELS ****

Prague	K+K Central
Písek	Hotel Biograf
Hluboká Castle	Hotel Štekl
Jindřichův Hradec	Concertino Hotel

Note: Tour routing and hotels may be altered for operational reasons.

TOUR PRICES Euro Approx. AUD equivalent

Per person, twin-share EUR 3,495 AUD 6,355*

Single supplement EUR 735 AUD 1,336*

Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

* Due to the current volatility in exchange rates at the time of brochure printing, the tour price has been set in Euro (EUR). Indicative prices in Australian Dollars (AUD) have also been specified above, based on an estimated rate of AUD = EUR 0.55.

At the time of final payment (60 days prior to tour departure), the above prices in Euros will be converted to AUD at the B.S.R (Selling Rate) published by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia on 26 March 2009.

TOUR PRICES INCLUDE

- Accommodation in centrally located 4-star hotels with private facilities and daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L – Lunch, D – Dinner) including special welcome reception and farewell lunch
- Transfers on arrival and departure if travelling on group flights with Korean Airlines

- Comprehensive sightseeing with local guides including entrance fees as per itinerary
- Lectures and talks with your tour leaders throughout
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (1 piece per person).

DO NOT INCLUDE

- International flights
- Transfers on arrival / departure if not travelling on group flights
- Drinks with meals, except welcome reception and farewell lunch
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry, taxis etc.
- Airport portorage
- Travel insurance

SUGGESTED AIRFARES – Korean Airlines

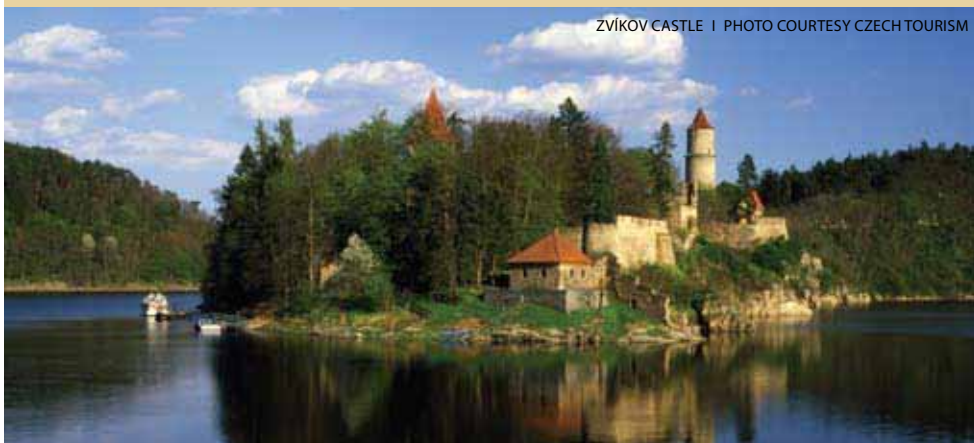
SYDNEY/MELBOURNE/BRISBANE – SEOUL – PRAGUE RETURN

Economy Class from A\$1,780

Business Class from A\$5,450

Important notes:

- Airfares do not include taxes and fuel surcharges (approximately \$200), which will be calculated and added to the final cost of your flights at the time of ticketing.
- All fares are current at time of brochure printing but subject to change at any time without notice.



HOW TO BOOK

Complete, sign and return the booking form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit of A\$500 per person. Upon receipt of your booking form and deposit, you will receive confirmation of your place on the tour. Please note that your deposit is used to pay for accommodation deposits and is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation. Final payment is due 26 March 2009.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Bookings are subject to Renaissance Tours terms and conditions, which are featured on pages 3 and 4 of your booking form. Please detach these pages from the booking form, before returning it to our office and keep this copy of our terms and conditions for your reference. They can also be found on our website at: www.renaissancetours.com.au or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.

TOUR ARRANGEMENTS BY



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