

Yale Summer Session in Prague, Czech Republic

CZEC S243/FILM S143 In Kafka's Spirit: Prague Film and Fiction

► **Housing Abroad:** All accommodations include wifi connection covers/blankets, sheets and pillows, towels & hand soap, and are located in downtown or within a short walk to city center:

- **Prague:** in Kolej Domov student (KDS College). Students' House in the Center of Prague, few steps from Národní třída (National Avenue), Prague 1.
- **Karlovy Vary:** in a hotel by Film Festival site & city center/spa colonnade
- **Český Krumlov:** in quaint mediaeval apartments next to the Castle Gate
- **Vienna:** in a modernized hotel with great breakfast and a short walk to the city Center
- **Budapest:** in an elegant hotel by major tourist attractions and shopping avenues
- **Piran:** in a hotel facing Adriatic sea beach & with breathtaking views of historic fortress
- **Salzburg:** in a small and comfortable hotel next to the town center

► **Basic Rules for Overnight Stay:**

- No one is allowed to bring guests to the KDS rooms or any hotel rooms. The program is restricted to the registered participants only. Friends and family occasionally may visit classes and/or join us for dinner; however, they will be responsible for the cost of their meals. If they happen to follow the program's itinerary, they could stay in the same hotels, provided they make their own reservations.
- Washer and dryer are available in KDS, and a paid laundry service is located few steps behind KDS College.
- KDS College central Prague location allows you to visit commercial health clubs within a short walking distance.

► **Meals Provided by the Program:** Breakfast is served every morning in Café Jericho:

- Breakfast hours in Prague: 8:15 - 9:15 (adjusted when traveling, if necessary)
- Breakfast hours in hotels during travels: 7:00 -10:00 (always verify hours in each hotel)
- Lunch and dinner (total 8 lunches and 16 festive dinners)

CITIES, IN WHICH THE PROGRAM STAYS OVERNIGHT

PRAGUE, the Capital of the Czech Republic gained #8 spot among "25 Best Cities for Young People To Live In" as posted in Geography & Travel online 5 years ago. A romantic city of all architectural styles from Romanesque to Modernist and of centuries long flourishing culture (museums, theatres, etc.) with a dramatic history (recent and centuries old), Prague lies in the heart of Europe and has become one of the most attractive and visited by tourists world's cities. Today, "all roads lead to Prague," including the Yale Summer Session Abroad.

BUDAPEST is a well-kept secret, partly due to Hungarian, a Finno-Ugric language that only Hungarians speak. A large city, a reminder of the Austro-Hungary opulence, it is composed of

two cities, Buda and Pest, separated by the Danube River. The city treasures are numerous, from Andrassy Avenue with chic boutiques to renowned geothermal springs. Budapest boasts with the Dohány Street Synagogue, the largest in Europe and the second largest synagogue in the world, and the third world's largest Parliament building. At night when its picturesque Buda Castle is lit and the reflection of Parliament is seen along the river, one is tempted to savor its beauty forever. Each year, Yale Summer Session participants bow to this image of eternity.

VIENNA is called “The City of Dreams” and “The City of Music” by the author of “25 Best Cities for Young People To Live In” with taking the spot #1 (just above #2, New York City!). The imperial beauty of Vienna is stunning, its large parks designed with grace and elegance are the most enjoyable to walk in. Vienna's transportation is the most efficient and Viennese people the most polite. One has a soothing feeling of serenity while in Vienna with Mozart's music heard everywhere. Yale participants of the Prague Summer Session claimed Vienna to be a city they would love to reside in.

KARLOVY VARY, a spa resort known as Karlsbad, was annexed to Germany in 1938-45. But today, you can speak Russian there! A Czech historic town located in a beautiful valley, it was claimed by Russian real estate moguls after the Velvet Revolution of 1989. It wasn't difficult for Russians to discover this gem since this town has been known for centuries to treat ailments of European aristocracy and celebrities. Peter the Great came in 1711, the Russian novelist Ivan Turgenev visited Karlsbad numerous times for treatments and so did, among many others, poet Goethe, and composers Frédéric Chopin and Ludwig van Beethoven. The Russian Orthodox Church with its golden-and-blue onion domes adds to the nostalgic charm of this resort today known for its International Film Festival, herbal liqueur Becherovka, fine Moser glass and shops with fine jewelry that cost more than jewelry in Cartier stores in Manhattan. Everyone is amazed, even Yale participants!

ČESKÝ KRUMLOV, a UNESCO World Heritage site is a picturesque small town in South Bohemia, known today for its 13th century Castle with one living black bear below the Castle gate (the second bear passed away two years ago) and Egon Schiele Art Center. It is one of the most relaxing places in Central Europe, and whether you are rafting or greeting rafters from an old wooden bridge in the town center, you only need to say *Ahoj* [pronounced *ahoy*] to make friends immediately. The town's souvenirs shops, cafés and restaurants along the banks of the Vltava River would hardly remind you of its pre- and post-WWII tumultuous history—its inhabitants (Czechs, Germans, Romanies) changing with each different political wind blow. Today these nationalities live next to each other in harmony, and it is here, where Romany people might play a violin and sing for you in their incomprehensible gypsy language. A real curiosity for Yale summer participants!

PIRAN is the highlight of the trip, and as far as the Yale summer Prague group ventures, with a half day boat trip this year to Italian Trieste! A triangle in Adriatic Sea, the peninsula of Piran is a reminder of a pizza slice topped with medieval architecture and Italian influence. It is located in Slovenia (a region of former Yugoslavia, and prior to that, of former Austro-Hungary), several miles from the Italian border. Piran's panorama set against the blue waves of salty sea inspires even those who care little about poetry. It is here that Yale Summer participants have yet another opportunity put their linguistic knowledge into practice with local folks because Slovenian and Czech are marvelously similar. Students can sit on their balcony facing the blue sea and write

poetry (or the course paper, if they prefer), or walk along the hotels rocky beaches until they reach the end of the town wall with a fortress where sandy beaches begin and some swimmers swim in their birth suits. Just one piece of advice: Please don't stare because what one culture forbids, another culture finds quite natural! That's the reason for travel: learning, understanding and appreciating.

SALZBURG in Austria is known for Mozart's music and its historic beauty. You will be offered wine tasting with specifically Austrian food, dances and cultural entertainment.



YSS Prague 2015