



# Hidden Treasures of Central Europe

Designed for  
Judy Pike & Friends

October 4 - 17, 2010

Our annual adventure with Judy and her friends certainly follows the road less traveled this year. From the Baroque elegance of Vienna to the timeless fascination of Venice, from the snow-capped mountains of the Austrian Alps to the azure waters of the Adriatic, here is a trip that you won't find anywhere else.

Starting in Austria, once the heartland of the largest empire the world has known, we'll stay in Vienna, the capital, and then follow the Danube west to Salzburg. The awe-inspiring mountain scenery of central Austria will unfold before us as we journey to the border with Germany on an excursion to Berchtesgaden, and then as we travel south across the Alps to neighboring Slovenia.

Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, has always been an important settlement due to its position at the crossroads of the Germanic, Latin and Slavic cultures. We'll spend a couple of days here before heading to the Adriatic coast and the historic resort town of Opatija.

We end our tour in the Veneto region of northern Italy staying at the impressive Villa Condulmer. Ronald Reagan chose this hotel to stay in when he attended the G8 summit in nearby Venice.

Ancient cities, small towns, mountains, fertile plains, crystal clear alpine lakes, warm Mediterranean beaches – and hotels of wonderful style and character. This fall join Judy Pike and Discover Europe's David Phillips for an unforgettable adventure into the heart of Europe.



Salzburg

## Vienna Pre-Trip Extension

**Saturday, October 2nd:** Departure from your chosen US gateway city.

**Sunday, Oct 3rd:** Arrival in Vienna, where you will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. Free time to unpack, relax and begin exploring.

**Monday, Oct 4th:** A free day in Vienna with David Phillips to escort you and provide suggestions for your entertainment. **(B)**

The cost of this extension is **\$690** per person, double occupancy (single supplement: \$350) and includes 2 night's first-class hotel accommodation, breakfast daily, portorage, airport transfers and services of a tour guide throughout.

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

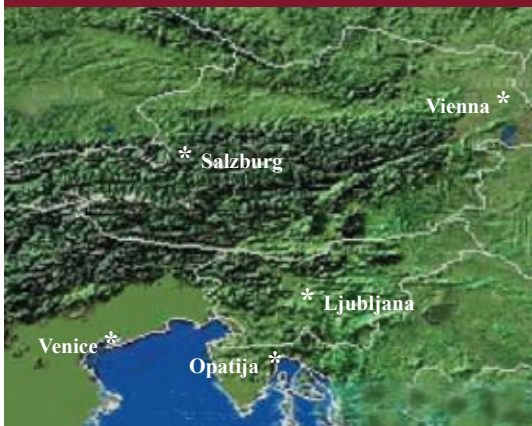
Land Only (no airfare included): **\$3990**  
Single supplement: **\$850**

*Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.*

The following services are included:

- i) 12 nights' accommodation in 4 and 5-star hotels. All hotel taxes & service charges included.
- ii) Buffet breakfast daily.
- iii) Services of tour leader David Phillips throughout.
- iv) All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- v) Local guides in Vienna, Salzburg and Ljubljana.
- vi) Entrances to all sites featured in the itinerary.
- vii) Portorage of one large suitcase per person at all hotels.





**Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.** Departure from your chosen US gateway.

**Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.** Your arrival in Vienna will be met for the transfer to our central hotel. The rest of the day is free to unpack, relax and begin exploring the neighborhood. **(B)** **Overnight: Vienna**

**Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.** Morning sightseeing with a local guide introduces this sparkling jewel of the Hapsburg Empire. Our tour ends at the Schonbrunn Palace, the exquisite summer residence of the Hapsburgs, where we'll enjoy a guided tour of the interior and have time to stroll the gardens before heading back into the city for a free afternoon. **(B)** **Overnight: Vienna**

**Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.** This morning we journey west toward Salzburg, home of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Our route takes us along the mighty Danube River, where we'll stop to visit the town of Melk, and its fabulous Baroque Benedictine Abbey, before

continuing on to Salzburg, and checking in to our hotel. **(B)** **Overnight: Salzburg**

**Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.** With its magnificent alpine setting, ornate Baroque churches, and Mozart legacy, Salzburg epitomizes all that is Austrian. A morning walking tour with a local guide introduces this "Rome of the North" and its medieval architectural treasures. We'll visit the house where Mozart lived for the first 17 years of his life and explore the surrounding neighborhoods. The afternoon is free—you might do a little shopping in the Altstadt (Old Town), designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, or visit the Fortress Hohensalzburg. The evening is also free to sample a local restaurant. **(B)** **Overnight: Salzburg**



Lake Bled

**Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.** This morning we leave the city for an excursion up into the mountains, crossing the border into Bavaria, to visit the town of Berchtesgaden. We'll visit the Eagle's Nest, built as a teahouse for Adolf Hitler's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, and take a boat ride on the nearby Koenigsee before returning to Salzburg for the evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Salzburg**

**Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.** Heading south this morning, we drive through the incredible scenery of the Austrian Alps to the town of Villach on the border with Slovenia. Villach has been an important crossroads since Roman times and we'll stop here for lunch.

This afternoon we continue through the spectacular scenery of the Triglavski Narodni National Park, stopping at the town of Bled, on the shores of an emerald green glacial lake that has been sacred to the local inhabitants for millennia. We'll take a gondola ride to Bled Island before a short drive brings us to our hotel in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. **(B)** **Overnight: Ljubljana**



Ljubljana

**Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.** A morning walking tour of Ljubljana with a local guide takes us behind the scenes of the ancient capital and includes a ride on the funicular railway up to the castle. The afternoon and evening are free. **(B)** **Overnight: Ljubljana**

**Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.** This morning we drive the short distance to the Adriatic coast, crossing the border into Croatia and arriving at the town of Opatija in time for lunch. Originally a quiet fishing village, Opatija became popular in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a winter

retreat for the nobility of the Austro-Hungarian empire and their magnificent villas remain. A walking tour this afternoon will introduce you to this jewel of the Croatian Riviera. **(B)** **Overnight: Opatija**

**Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.** A tour today takes us through the heart of the Istrian Peninsula. We'll stop at Rovinj to wander the seafront, stop for lunch and perhaps sample the local truffles for which the region is famous. We continue up the coast to Porec where we visit the Basilica of Euphrasias containing some of the most wonderful mosaics in the world – easily the equal of those at Ravenna. We return to Opatija for a free evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Opatija**

**Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.** This morning we take the coastal route along the peninsula to Pula to visit the wonderfully preserved Roman Amphitheatre. We'll return to Opatija early in the afternoon for free time to enjoy the town. **(B)** **Overnight: Opatija**

**Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.** Today we cross the border with Italy at Trieste. We'll make a brief stop here and then continue around the top of the Adriatic into the Veneto region of Italy. Our hotel for the next two nights is the fabulous Villa Condulmer, a 17<sup>th</sup>-century villa that has played host to Giuseppe Verdi and Ronald and Nancy Reagan in the past. **(B)** **Overnight: Mogliano Veneto**

**Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.** A free day in the Veneto. From the Villa Condulmer you can take a short train ride into Venice for the day, or to the ancient walled town of Treviso, just to the north. Alternatively you can just relax and enjoy the villa's amenities (golf, horseback riding, etc.). **(B)** **Overnight: Mogliano Veneto**



The Hotel Villa Condulmer

**Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.** Morning transfers to Venice Airport for return flights to the U.S. **(B)**