



Prague's beautiful Old Town Square

Libraries, Information and History in Prague

An escorted study tour

6 - 9 October 2017

"A trip which was professionally enriching and also enjoyable."

Chloe French, Libraries, Information and History in Berlin, 2016





Theological Hall, Strahov Library

The grand capital of Bohemia was founded in 880 and is home to the oldest university in Central Europe, dating back to 1348. With a long tradition of education, and as one of the loveliest and most admired cultural centres in Europe, it is no surprise that Prague is full of old libraries - including the baroque Strahov Library, acclaimed as one of the most beautiful libraries in the world.

Prague is a city overflowing with magnificent architecture encompassing soaring Gothic spires, gilded baroque ceilings, art nouveau curves and the brutalist elegance of Cubism. It is an enticing maze of cobblestone lanes and hidden courtyards, it boasts a relaxed café and bar culture and its art galleries offer a spectrum encompassing Cubism, Surrealism, Art Nouveau and more. This combination of culture, lifestyle and a beautiful river setting, as well as its libraries, make this an especially rewarding city for a CILIP tour.

Arrive in Prague and transfer to the Hotel Lindner, an elegant hotel in a sixteenth century building. In the afternoon take a guided tour of the National Library of Technology, the largest and the oldest library of science and technology literature in the Czech Republic, with a collection

of over 1.5 million volumes housed in a modern ecological building. Afterwards take a tour of the Municipal Library of Prague, a public universal library with special emphasis placed on services for parents with children, youth and students, services to senior citizens, the socially disadvantaged and the handicapped. In the evening enjoy a welcome dinner with the group.

Next morning take a special guided tour with the curator of the magnificent Strahov Library. The library is in the Strahov Monastery, founded in 1140, which is famous for its library and picture gallery. The historical part of the library contains more than 200 000 volumes and



The Old Town Square



Sunset behind Prague Castle

contains two splendidly decorated halls - the Theological Hall and the Philosophical Hall.

Continue to Prague Castle in the afternoon for a guided tour. The seat of political power in Prague for more than one thousand years and the largest ancient castle in the world, it is also the site of the first convent in Bohemia and the seat of the president of the Czech Republic. It encompasses architectural styles ranging from a Romanesque basilica to soaring Gothic spires. Continue your tour walking across the stone 14th century Charles Bridge to the spectacular Old Town Square. The evening is at leisure to explore Prague at your own pace.

Prague is the birthplace of the literary icon, Franz Kafka. The next morning visit the museum dedicated to his life and work and a library featuring both his canon of works and literary criticism. Your final afternoon is at leisure before a farewell dinner in the evening.

The following morning take a guided tour of Prague City Archives. Situated in the Prague City Hall, this institution preserves and makes available archival materials that document Prague's history since the Middle Ages. Together with the National Archives, the City Archives are one of the largest and most important in Bohemia.

Return to the hotel and transfer to the airport for your return flight.

Itinerary 6 – 9 October 2017

6 Oct (Fri)	Prague	D
Am	Arrive in Prague and transfer to hotel	
Pm	Guided tour of National Library of Technology. Guided tour of Municipal Library of Prague	
Eve	Welcome dinner at local restaurant	
7 Oct (Sat)	Prague	B
Am	Special guided tour by curator of Strahov Library. Guided walking tour of Prague Castle	
Pm	After lunch continue your walking tour along Charles Bridge to the Old Town Square	
Eve	At leisure	
8 Oct (Sun)	Prague	B D
Am	Visit the Kafka Museum and its library	
Pm	At leisure	
Eve	Farewell dinner	
9 Oct (Mon)	Prague	B
Am	Guided tour of Prague City Archives. Return to the hotel and transfer to the airport for return flight	



Philosophical Hall, Strahov Library

Hotel Lindner

Housed in a 16th century building, the warm and elegant 5-star Hotel Lindner is situated close to Prague Castle, in one of the most picturesque parts of Prague. The Saint Vitus Cathedral, the Strahov Monastery and Charles Bridge are all within walking distance from the central, yet quiet, hotel location, which is actually within the grounds of the Strahov Monastery. The facilities include a sauna, fitness and relaxation room, a tennis court, a terrace restaurant and bar, and a library.

Hotel Lindner, Prague



A view of Vitava River and Charles Bridge

The cost of the tour is £590 and includes:

- Tour leader and speaker (Ian Stringer)
- Deputy tour leader, Paul Stringer, who speaks fluent Czech
- 3 nights' accommodation at the Lindner Hotel

Single supplement £160

- Breakfast daily
- Specialist hosted library visits
- Welcome and farewell dinner with wine
- All travel as per itinerary
- All admission fees as per the itinerary

The cost excludes

- International flights between the UK and Prague and airport transfers
- Meals not mentioned
- All personal extras, such as tips, portorage, laundry, inoculations fees and drinks
- Travel insurance
- All optional excursions, tours and visits

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Tour leader

With over four decades experience in libraries and library projects all over the world, tour leader **Ian Stringer** is now chair with International Library and Information Group and a Committee Member of CILIP Yorkshire and Humberside Member Network. Ian will be accompanied on the Prague Library tour by his son, Paul Stringer, who is a fluent Czech and German speaker having worked in bookshops in Dortmund and Waldshut and for a German call centre. Together they have led 10 library IT courses, as well as courses on talking books.

