





Czech Republic,



Germany, Slovenia & Italy


Farm Study Tour 2018



Date	Activity	Overnight
DAY 1 Fri, Aug 24 (meals on plane)	Tour leader: Lloyd O'Connell 0428 724 615 Depart various Australian capitals for Prague, capital of the Czech Republic (a country now officially – but rarely – called Czechia)	On plane
DAY 2 Sat, Aug 25 D	<p>We arrive in Prague, where we are met by our local guide and transferred to our downtown hotel for check in. After a rest and freshen up, we enjoy a guided city tour to help get our bearings.</p> <p>Prague is the capital and largest city in the Czech Republic. Situated in the north-west of the country on the Vltava river, the city is home to about 1.3 million people. The city has a temperate climate, with warm summers and chilly winters. Prague has been a political, cultural and economic centre of central Europe. Founded around 1000 years ago during the Romanesque era, Prague was the capital of the kingdom of Bohemia. The city flourished over the centuries to become an important cultural and trading centre.</p> <p>Prague had a particularly golden period during the 14th-century reign (1346–1378) of Charles IV, Holy Roman Emperor and the king of Bohemia. He transformed Prague into an imperial capital and it was at that time the third-largest city in Europe after Rome and Constantinople (now Istanbul). Charles IV ordered the building of the New Town adjacent to the Old Town and laid out the design himself.</p> <p>During the reign of Charles IV's son, King Wenceslaus IV (1378–1419), a period of intense turmoil ensued. During Easter 1389, members of the Prague clergy announced that Jews had desecrated the host (Eucharistic wafer) and the clergy encouraged mobs to pillage, ransack and burn the Jewish quarter. Nearly the entire Jewish population of Prague (3,000 people) perished.</p>	THE CZECH REPUBLIC Prague Hilton Prague Old Town Website 
DAY 3 Sun, Aug 26 B,L	<p>Activities in and around Prague and then a free afternoon and evening.</p> <p>World War I ended with the defeat of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the creation of the republic of Czechoslovakia. Prague was chosen as its capital and Prague Castle as the seat of the president. At this time Prague was a true European capital with highly developed industry. By 1930, the population had risen to 850,000. During World War II, the country was occupied by Nazi Germany. At the end of the war, the Red Army took Prague, with fierce fighting until 11th May 1945. The majority (about 50,000 people) of the German population of Prague either fled or were expelled by the Beneš decrees in the aftermath of the war.</p> <p>Prague was a city in the territory of military and political control of the Soviet Union. In June 1967 student protests spurred the short-lived season of 'socialism with a human face'. It was the Prague Spring. Warsaw Pact member countries, except Romania and Albania, reacted with the invasion of Czechoslovakia and the capital in August 1968. In 1989 and the break up of the Soviet Union, a largely peaceful 'Velvet Revolution' crowded the streets of Prague, and the Czechoslovak capital benefited greatly from the new mood. In 1993, after the split of Czechoslovakia, Prague became the capital city of the new Czech Republic.</p>	Prague Hilton Prague Old Town 

Date	Activity	Overnight
DAY 4 Mon, Aug 27 B,L,D	<p>Depart Prague to the southwest and into the Pilsen Region. We visit an arable farm along the way. We also call in on a hop production enterprise and of course, a Pilsen brewery where we inspect the hops and barley being put to good use.</p> <p>The Pilsen Region is the second least densely populated in the country. The north of the region is highly industrialised but in the south-west, where we will travel through, farming dominates the landscape. The climate of the region is influenced by the western and south-western winds from the Atlantic Ocean. Average annual rainfall is around 660 mm (26 inches) spread reasonably evenly throughout the year.</p>	Pilsen region
DAY 5 Tues, Aug 28 B,L,D	<p>We cross into south-eastern Germany this morning and Bavaria – the largest federal state of Germany. Bavaria extends from the North German Plain to the Alps in the south. Much of southern Bavaria where we are travelling has more in common culturally with neighbouring Austria and Switzerland than with the rest of Germany. This includes lederhosen (leather trousers), sausages and lots of beer.</p> <p>We travel to the village of Schwandorf and a visit to the family-owned and state of the art agricultural machinery manufacturer – Horsch. We will meet designers and engineers and see the latest in farm equipment from this innovative company owned by a farming family.</p> <p>We also visit an arable farm today before continuing on to the beautiful medieval town of Regensburg, located majestically on the Danube River. As one of the few cities in Germany largely undamaged during the Second World War, Regensburg boasts the largest and best preserved medieval city centre (Old Town) in Germany. We enjoy a guided city tour to learn more about the town's history and stunning architecture.</p>	GERMANY Regensburg Orphee Hotel Website 
DAY 6 Wed, Aug 29 B,L,D	<p>We continue south today and enter the awe-inspiring Alps. The Alps are the highest and most extensive mountain range system that lies entirely in Europe. They stretch for 1200 km across eight Alpine countries (France, Switzerland, Italy, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany and Slovenia). The Alpine region contains about a hundred peaks higher than 4000 metres (13,000 feet). The altitude and size of the range affects the climate – and farming – across a large area of Europe.</p> <p>We have a lunchtime arrival into Innsbruck, the 'Capital of the Alps'. Magnificent and imperial historic buildings in the city centre meet attractive and groundbreaking modern landmarks. Several of Innsbruck's buildings are world famous, for example the Bergisel Ski Jump, the Golden Roof and the Imperial Palace. We enjoy a guided tour of the main sights and then take a cable car ride from the centre of town to the stunning Nordkette mountain range overlooking Innsbruck.</p> <p>Our hotel tonight is in the centre of the Old Town with its rich 800 year history.</p>	AUSTRIA INNSBRUCK Hotel Innsbruck Website
DAY 7 Thu, Aug 30 B,L,D	<p>Time this morning to do your own exploration of Innsbruck's Old Town before boarding our coach and continuing further south into the Alps. We cross into northern Italy and onto the rural village of Dobbacio. We are in the stunning Dolomite region. We enjoy lunch and farm visits around Dobbacio before crossing back into Austria and continuing onto the picturesque town of Lienz (East Tyrol) located at the confluence of the rivers Isel and Drava in the Eastern Alps.</p> <p>Lienz has a strong agricultural base, and being surrounded by the Lienz Dolomites, the region lays claim to some of the more scenic farmlands in Europe. The area has relatively warm (20–25° max) summers and cold winters. Average annual precipitation (including snow) is around 900 mm (36 inches) with the summer period averaging around 100 mm per month rainfall.</p>	The Dolomites/Tyrol region Lienz Hotel Traube Website 
DAY 8 Fri, Aug 31 B,L	<p>Farm, scenic and cultural visits in the Lienz region before a free evening in Lienz.</p>	Lienz Hotel Traube

Date	Activity	Overnight
DAY 9 Sat, Sep 1 B,L,D	<p>We board our coach this morning and continue southeast into Slovenia – our destination is the magnificent Lake Bled.</p> <p>Slovenia is a hidden gem of Europe, flying under the mass tourism radar. The country is located at the crossroads of main European cultural and trade routes and is bordered by Italy to the west, Austria to the north, Hungary to the northeast, Croatia to the south and southeast, and the Adriatic Sea to the southwest. With this geographic location and mixture of Slavic, Germanic, Roman and Hungarian languages and cultures, Slovenia has a fascinating, complex and turbulent history.</p> <p>At the end of World War I the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was eventually established and included Slovenes, Croats and Serbs. The main territory of Slovenia was in the north of Yugoslavia and was more industrialised and westernised compared to Croatia and Serbia.</p> <p>With the advent of World War II, Slovenia was the only present-day European nation that was trisected and completely annexed into both Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy (the Axis forces). In April 1941 a resistance movement emerged – the Yugoslav Partisans – led by the Communist leader Josip Broz Tito.</p> <p>The partisan resistance mainly took place in northern Slovenia around Lake Bled.</p> <p>In 1945, Yugoslavia was liberated by the partisan resistance and soon became a socialist federation known as the People’s Federal Republic of Yugoslavia under the leadership of Tito. Slovenia joined the federation and had its own pro-Communist leadership with links to Stalinist Russia.</p>	<p>SLOVENIA</p> <p>Lake Bled</p> <p>Grand Toplice Hotel</p> <p>Website</p> 
DAY 10 Sun, Sep 2 B,L	<p>Today we have farm and scenic visits around Lake Bled region before a free evening.</p> <p>In 1948 there was a Tito–Stalin split resulting in more economic and personal freedoms in Yugoslavia than in the rest of the Eastern Bloc. After the failure of forced collectivisation that was attempted from 1949–53, a policy of gradual economic liberalisation, known as workers self-management, was introduced under the advice and supervision of the Slovene Marxist theoretician and Communist leader Edvard Kardelj, the main ideologue of the Titoist path to socialism. Suspected opponents of this policy both from within and outside the Communist party were persecuted and thousands were sent to the Goli otok.</p> <p>The late 1950s saw a policy of liberalisation in the cultural sphere as well, and limited border crossing into neighboring Italy and Austria was allowed again. Until the 1980s, Slovenia enjoyed relatively broad autonomy within the federation. With further economic decentralisation of Yugoslavia in 1965–66, Slovenia’s domestic product was 2.5 times the average of Yugoslav republics.</p> <p>After Tito’s death in 1980, the economic and political situation in Yugoslavia became very strained. Demands for democratisation and more Slovenian independence were building and in 1990, the first democratic election in Slovenia took place. In 1991, Slovenia gained independence. In 2004 Slovenia joined the European Union and NATO.</p>	<p>Lake Bled</p> <p>Grand Toplice Hotel</p> 
DAY 11 Mon, Sep 3 B,L,D	<p>We travel eastwards today into the Pannonian Plain – the main grain producing region of Slovenia – for farm visits. Later in the afternoon we continue onto the country’s beautiful capital, Ljubljana, home to around 300,000 Slovenians. The city’s architecture is a mix of styles but Ljubljana’s historic and magnificent centre remains intact. Although the oldest architecture has been preserved from the Roman period, a Baroque style dominates following Italian (particularly Venetian) models.</p>	<p>Ljubljana</p> <p>Grand Hotel Union</p> <p>Website</p>
DAY 12 Tues, Sep 4 B	<p>This is a city full of charm and surprises and we find out why during our city tour this morning. Free time this afternoon and this evening for your own exploration.</p>	<p>Ljubljana</p> <p>Grand Hotel Union</p>
Day 13 Wed, Sep 5 B,L	<p>More farm visits and other activities in and around Ljubljana including a visit to the extensive cave complexes to the west of the capital. The caves are also home to the endemic olm – the largest troglodytic amphibian in the world.</p>	<p>Ljubljana</p> <p>Grand Hotel Union</p>
Day 14 Thu, Sep 6 B,L,D	<p>We board our coach this morning and travel northwards and into Italy. We continue onto the important agricultural centre of Udine. We are in the plains of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, between the Adriatic Sea and the Alps. The soils are generally difficult to manage but extensive irrigation and the adoption of modern intensive farming techniques have made this a productive agricultural region.</p> <p>We enjoy farm visits and scenic stops on our way to Udine.</p>	<p>ITALY</p> <p>Udine</p> <p>Ambassador Palace Hotel</p> <p>Website</p>

Date	Activity	Overnight
Day 15 Fri, Sep 7 B,L	Today we travel to Venice with a dramatic entrance to this unique city via the Grand Canal. After checking-in to our canal-side hotel, we have a guided tour of Venice and then a free evening to enjoy your own exploration of the streets and sights of the city.	Venice Pesaro Palace Hotel Website
Day 16 Sat, Sep 8 B,L,D	A free morning before we return to our bus (via the Grand Canal again) and travel westwards towards Florence with farm and scenic visits along the way. Florence was a centre of medieval European trade and finance and one of the wealthiest cities of that era. It is considered the birthplace of the Renaissance. A turbulent political history includes periods of rule by the powerful Medici family and numerous religious and republican revolutions.	Florence RoomMate Luca Hotel Website
Day 17 Sun, Sep 9 B	This morning we have a guided city tour including The Duomo, the Ponte Vecchio and Michelangelo's magnificent statue of David. Then it's a free afternoon and evening in this fantastic city.	Florence RoomMate Luca Hotel
Day 18 Mon, Sep 10 B,L,D	A local guide joins us today as we travel south and into the heart of the famed Tuscany region. Our guide will introduce us to the local families and stories behind the production of the world famous foods and wines of the region. Over the next few days visits and sights will include durum farms, pasta manufacturing, a sheep cheese (Pecorino) operation and of course a local vineyard near Montalcino producing the world-acclaimed Brunello wine. We will also visit San Gimignano, a UNESCO-listed walled medieval hill town notable for its wonderfully preserved architecture as well as saffron production. Also UNESCO-listed is nearby Siena, famous for its cuisine, art, museums and the Palio – a horse race held twice a year around the city 'square'.	Tuscany Agriturismo Tuscan Villa <i>To be advised but will be similar to: See website</i> 
Day 19 Tues, Sep 11 B,L	More activities in beautiful Tuscany including a visit to the ancient and magnificent St Antimo Abbey which has been inhabited by Benedictine monks since the 9th century. Its origins date back to the Holy Roman Emperor, Charlemagne. Lunch today will be an outdoors "al fresco" affair overlooking the Tuscan hills as we enjoy some locally grown and prepared delicacies. A free evening.	Tuscany Agriturismo Tuscan Villa
Day 20 Wed, Sep 12 B,L,D	Continue south to Rome with scenic visits along the way. On arrival in Rome we enjoy a guided city tour of just some of the many highlights. The history of Rome – the Eternal City – spans 28 centuries. It is impossible to take everything in during a short visit, but we will be expertly introduced to the highlights of one of the world's most fascinating and influential capitals.	Rome Hotel Stendhal Website
Day 21 Thu, Sep 13 B,D	More activities in Rome before a free afternoon and then we enjoy our farewell dinner this evening.	Rome Hotel Stendhal
Day 22 Fri, Sep 14 B	Flights home today (arriving home Saturday, Sep 15) or you have the option of continuing with your adventure to other European or Asian destinations.	On plane

TOUR COST: \$14,500 pp twin share

Single supplement (room to yourself) – add \$1650

TOUR INCLUSIONS...

- All international and internal flights (economy class) including taxes and airport charges that can be included on the pre-purchased air ticket. International flights are based on departure from any east coast of Australia capital. Tour costs for Perth departures can vary slightly up or down depending on destination. We can also offer a range of premium economy and business class flight options. If you book your own international flights using FF points or other arrangements, the economy class flight cost built into the Farm Study Tour is deducted from the final tour price;
- First class, centrally located city accommodation (best available in regional areas) with full buffet breakfast;
- Farm and other technical visits;
- Most lunch and evening meals are included and are of the highest standard. Meals are designed to showcase the best of the regional food and wines. Some evenings will be left free to sample some of the great local restaurants at your leisure;
- Local, as well as our own, experienced *Greenmount Travel* guides/translators accompany the group to ensure any problems that may arise are quickly fixed;
- Private first class charter coach and experienced drivers; and,
- Park and site entries, transfers, etc mentioned on the itineraries.

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