

# Eastern Europe



GATE has been offering the Europe tour since 1985. This year we will be focusing Austria, Czech Republic and southern Poland.

GATE offers a behind-the-scenes experience of these countries and insightful dialogue with a cross section of people. Significant contacts with the ecumenical community and input on the social and economic challenges enrich our travels. We understand the life of the people by visiting rural communities and small towns.

The pen sketch above, from "Old Town" Prague, was done by a participant of the 1999 tour, Roman Czerny, an architect from North Vancouver, B.C.

There is the historic culture present in these countries, a sense of "old world" that dates back centuries from the time of "Good King Wenceslaus" through the rise and fall of the Communist experiment to the present.

A multi-lingual Czech guide will assist the GATE staff in connecting participants with business people, professional farmers, religious leaders and local folks.

The world becomes "home" and nations become "family" once one walks in another country and understands the culture and the struggles, as well as the faith and courage, of another people.

Eastern Europe Today: an on-going dialogue with a variety of people representing the issues citizens are currently facing:

- Social and Economic Realities
- The Ecumenical Challenge
- The Basis of Peace
- Refugees and Ethnic Issues

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**The following representative experiences will also be included:**

- Guided tours of such historic cities as Prague and Brno in the Czech Republic and Krakow and Czestakowa in Poland
- Explore the National Museum in Prague
- Enjoying an evening concert
- Wander through Hradcany castle in Prague
- Tour of Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz
- Visit to site museum in Moravia where ancient mammoth hunters lived
- Visit to a farming co-operative and learn of rural challenges
- Visit to Moravian wine country and an evening of wine tasting
- Take in the historic Jewish ghetto of Prague
- Experience church of the Black Madonna in Czestakowa
- Free time for shopping or taking in other sites of interest
- Dialogue with rural Polish people
- Visit Lidice, a memorial to valiant villagers
- Dialogue with adult English class members on current Czech issues

Accommodations are normally two to a room. Private room is an additional cost; arrangements should be made with GATE office at the time of registration. Participants are accompanied by GATE staff who serve as translators and facilitators of the experience. Local guides may also assist GATE staff. Contact GATE office for program details. Above activities are subject to change.

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