



Central & Eastern Europe

Includes ➔

CZECH REPUBLIC...	700
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SLOVENIA	727
Ljubljana	727
HUNGARY	738
Budapest	738
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Bucharest	749
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Kyiv	764

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Restauracja Pod Norenami (p723)
- ➔ Klassz (p743)
- ➔ Prince of Orange (p729)
- ➔ Bistro de l'Arte (p757)
- ➔ Kanapa (p765)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Mosaic House (p705)
- ➔ Mundo Hostel (p723)
- ➔ Hostel Tresor (p729)
- ➔ Kapital Inn (p741)
- ➔ Little Bucharest Old Town Hostel (p751)

Why Go?

Though the countries of Central and Eastern Europe emerged from communism a quarter-century ago, they still retain a feeling of the 'other' Europe – wilder, less-refined, and more remote than their cousins in the west. Medieval capitals like Prague, Kraków and Budapest number among the continent's most beautiful cities and belong on any first-timer's list. More exotic destinations such as Slovakia, Slovenia and Romania boast rustic charm and extreme natural beauty. All are members of the European Union.

The situation changes as you move further east. The former Soviet countries of Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia lie well off the beaten track for most travellers and will appeal mainly to adventurers. Eastern Ukraine remains embroiled in conflict, though the western parts of the country, particularly the majestic cities of Kyiv and Lviv, are peaceful. Mountainous Georgia is one of the most beautiful countries anywhere.

Fast Facts

Capitals Prague (Czech Republic), Warsaw (Poland), Bratislava (Slovakia), Budapest (Hungary), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Bucharest (Romania), Chişinău (Moldova), Kyiv (Ukraine), Minsk (Belarus), Tbilisi (Georgia)

Currency Euro € (Slovakia, Slovenia), crown Kč (Czech Republic), złoty zł (Poland), forint ft (Hungary), lei (Romania), Moldovan lei (Moldova), hryvnya UAH (Ukraine), Belarusian rouble BR (Belarus), lari GEL (Georgia)

Languages Czech (Czech Republic), Polish (Poland), Slovak (Slovakia), Hungarian (Hungary), Slovenian (Slovenia), Romanian (Romania), Moldovan and Russian (Moldova), Ukrainian, Russian (Ukraine); Belarusian, Russian (Belarus); Georgian (Georgia)

Visas Required for Belarus for most visitors; other countries visa-free for most visitors for stays up to 90 days

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: MINSK

Isolated capital with surprisingly attractive Soviet style.
(p775)



OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: HIGH TATRAS

Alpine adventure in the heart of
Central Europe.
(p714)

WORTH A TRIP: LVIV

The old-world charm of Prague or
Krakow without the tourists.
(p769)

Central & Eastern Europe Highlights

- 1 Prague** Ramble around an intact 14th-century town core and cross the continent's most beautiful bridge. (p700)
- 2 Kraków** Admire the biggest medieval public square in

- Europe at the heart of Poland's historic capital. (p719)
- 3 Auschwitz-Birkenau** Bow your head in remembrance of the more than a million murdered here in WWII. (p725)

- 4 Slovenia** Climb, raft and cave in this prettiest of possible places in a tiny package. (p727)