

Alumni Travel Reading List

Vienna & Prague

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“Marvelously imperial Vienna and Prague are two cities brimming with opportunities to encounter outstanding art and architecture, museums and historic monuments, music and dance, and—along with other delightful fare—schnitzels and strudels. During this week-long flexible program, our Travel Director makes you perfectly at ease with support and guidance. Private sightseeing sets the stage for exploration, and a stand-out hotel in the heart of each city makes an ideal home-base where you can savor included breakfasts, stage your adventures, connect with fellow travelers, and unwind in style. Your only job is to enjoy the sites as you follow your interests and passions through two of Europe's most exciting cultural capitals! Want more? If you like, add Paris to your program with a three-night optional extension in the City of Lights.” (From the Penn Alumni Travel website)

Suggested Resources

Prague: History & Culture

Kaplan, Jan, ed. *A Traveler's Companion to Prague*. Interlink Books, 2005.

Prague is described through eyewitness accounts throughout history. Includes personal insights from Petrarch, John Dee, Mozart, Kafka, Camus and others.

Wagenbach, Klaus. *Kafka's Prague: a Travel Reader*. Transl. Shaun Whiteside. Overlook Press, 1996.

This book takes the reader on a journey through the Prague that Franz Kafka knew during his short life (1883-1924). Complete with biographical information, maps, and black and white photography.

Goldberg, Myla. *Time's Magpie: A Walk in Prague*. Crown Journeys, 2004.

A charming personal account of everyday life in Prague. The city is likened to a hoarding magpie, collecting fragments of history and culture through the centuries.

Prague in Fiction

Goldstein, Lisa. *The Alchemist's Door*. Tor, 2002.

In this work of historical fiction, Sixteenth Century English astrologer John Dee flees to Prague, a center of culture, knowledge and learning. There he meets the mystic Rabbi Judah Loew and assists in creating the Golem that will defend Prague's Jewish residents from persecution.

Rudel, Anthony J. *Imagining Don Giovanni*. Atlantic Monthly Press, 2001.

Set in Prague in 1787, this book explores three figures associated with the creation and premier of Mozart's opera, *Don Giovanni*: composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, librettist Leonardo Da Ponte, and the notorious Giacomo Casanova.

Vienna: History & Culture

Parsons, Nicholas. *Vienna: A Cultural History*. Oxford University Press, 2009.

A thorough and well-written examination of Vienna, a city that has seen many transformations throughout history. Special attention is paid to Vienna in the Baroque and Enlightenment eras, *fin de siècle*, and modern times.

Hofmann, Paul. *The Spell of the Vienna Woods*. H. Holt, 1994.

Travel writer Paul Hofmann offers an exploration of the Vienna Woods, a large tract of forest outside the city. The woods have been a source of inspiration for great artists and thinkers throughout history.

Endler, Franz. *Vienna, a Guide to its Music and Musicians*. Transl. Leo Jecny. Amadeus Press, 1989.

Endler highlights Vienna's rich musical heritage, from the original Viennese masters like Mozart and Haydn, to 20th Century innovators like Schoenberg and Mahler. Translated from the original German, with a foreword by Leonard Bernstein.

Vienna in Fiction

Tallis, Frank. *A Death in Vienna*. Grove Press, 2005.

The first book in the Liebermann Papers series, about a psychoanalyst-turned-detective in *fin de siècle* Vienna. The story centers around Liebermann's investigation into the mysterious death of a beautiful psychic and the suspected members of her seance circle.

Phillips, Max. *The Artist's Wife*. H. Holt, 2001.

This book tells a reimagined story of Viennese socialite Alma Mahler's life. Although a promising musician and composer in her own right, Alma is most remembered as the wife of Austrian composer Gustav Mahler, architect Walter Gropius, and writer Franz Werfel.

Hill, Carol de Chellis. *Henry James' Midnight Song*. Poseidon Press, 1993.

Reminiscent of E.L. Doctorow's *Ragtime*, this work of historical fiction follows the intertwining lives of several prominent figures living in and visiting Vienna, including Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, Henry James, and Edith Wharton.