



## History 3385: Czech & Germany in WWII and the Cold War A Travel Course for Students, Alumni & Friends of SMU

MAY 17-27, 2021

*Join SMU's Center for Presidential History's Jeffrey A. Engel and Essential History Expeditions' Brian DeToy for a spectacular and engaging examination of central Europe's rich history-and-culture. With a WWII/Cold War focus, this expedition will also bridge the dynamic centuries that made this land the heartbeat of imperial power and cultural hegemony. This intergenerational tour offers three credits for students, and for alumni and friends the opportunity to see the places history took place — and to relive a bit of college life.*



Highlights: Interactions with current SMU students and leadership, including mentorship! Prague, Nuremberg, Jena, Dresden, Leipzig, and Berlin! From imperial Habsburgs and Hohenzollerns through WWII, the Cold War and beyond! Czech pilsener and sausage to German hefeweizen and wienerschnitzel! And much more.

**Spaces will fill quickly! Register now!**

3 NIGHTS PRAGUE/1 NIGHT NUREMBERG/2 NIGHTS DRESDEN/  
1 NIGHT LEIPZIG/3 NIGHTS BERLIN

Join us for a fully guided and immersive tour to explore the people and places of central Europe, from the September 1938 German occupation of Czechoslovakia, to the liberation battles in 1944-45; through the battle of Berlin in April-May 1945 that completed Europe's liberation from Nazi rule; and then on through the decades-long Cold War in the capitals and cities of two nations caught between the Great Powers. We will walk the fields and city streets, and learn from local experts and guest lecturers. Plus, we'll have plenty of time to explore these iconic sites on your own and to reconnect with SMU friends and students in some of Europe's most scenic sites. This trip will also provide opportunities to connect with current SMU students through meaningful discussions and mentorship.

This trip features in-depth guided tours and lectures for all sites, all admission fees and transportation, all lodging and meals as detailed on the itinerary. Airfare not included. Pricing for alumni/friends: \$4,995 double occupancy (\$750 single supplement); students contact SMU Study Abroad.

Trip preparation: Pre-departure lectures and study groups led by Dr. Jeffrey Engel, mandatory for students and optional for alumni and friends of SMU.

# History 3385 Czech & Germany in WWII and Cold War Daily Itinerary

## Monday, May 17: Arrival in Prague

- ◆ Arrive in Prague and check in to lodgings
- ◆ Group classical music performance in one of many wonderful venues

## Tuesday, May 18: Prague Old Town and Jewish Quarter

- ◆ Walking tour of central Prague's Stare Mesto (Old Town) focused on the Habsburgs and Czech history
- ◆ Walking tour of the Jewish Quarter, including the Old Jewish Cemetery, the Old-New Synagogue and the Spanish Synagogue
- ◆ Group dinner and introductions

## Wednesday, May 19: Prague in WWII & Cold War

- ◆ Morning walking tour of Nove Mesto (New Town) and its role in WWII and Cold War, focused on the revolutions of 1968 and 1989
- ◆ Group lunch in central Prague
- ◆ Time on your own to explore Prague and its many incredible sites
- ◆ Dinner on your own in one of the many great restaurants in Prague

## Thursday, May 20: Prague to Nuremberg

- ◆ Afternoon visit, including lunch, at the Nazi Rally Grounds, Nazi Documentation Center and Nuremberg Trials Courtroom & Museum
- ◆ Evening walking tour of Old Town Nuremberg, including sites important to both the First Reich (Holy Roman Empire) and Third Reich (Nazis)
- ◆ Dinner on your own in Old Town Nuremberg

## Friday, May 21: Nuremberg to Jena and Dresden

- ◆ Visit Jena battlefield, one of Napoleon's twin victories on October 14, 1806. Cited as one of his grandest victories, it brought about the utter defeat of the Prussians.
- ◆ Group lunch in central Jena, a famed university town in Thuringia
- ◆ Dinner on your own in Old Town Dresden

## Saturday, May 22: Dresden

- ◆ Morning walking tour of central Dresden to discuss the old Saxony of the Wettin dynasty, the August 1813 Napoleonic campaign, and the horrific February 1945 WWII fire-bombing captured by American POW Kurt Vonnegut in *Slaughterhouse Five*
- ◆ Visit KGB headquarters where Lt Col Vladimir Putin frantically destroyed records as the Berlin Wall fell
- ◆ Group lunch in Dresden
- ◆ Afternoon and dinner on your own to explore the sights of Old Town Dresden

## Sunday, May 23: Leipzig

- ◆ Visit the grand memorial, one of Europe's biggest, commemorating the pivotal October 1813 Battle of Leipzig
- ◆ Walking tour of central Leipzig with group lunch
- ◆ Visit Cold War sites at the epicenter for German resistance to the Soviet Union and DDR in the 1980s — Augustusplatz, St Nicholas Church and Stasi Museum
- ◆ Visit Johan Sebastian Bach sites in St Thomas Church and the nearby Bach museum
- ◆ Dinner on your own in Old Town

## Monday, May 24: Leipzig to Berlin

- ◆ Drive to Berlin with stop in Torgau to see where Americans and Soviets first joined hands in April 1945.
- ◆ Stop in Wittenberg and the Castle Church where Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses, igniting the Protestant Reformation
- ◆ Lunch on your own in Wittenberg's charming Old Market Square
- ◆ Stop in Potsdam, home of Prussian monarchs for more than 200 years. Visit will include discussions at the site of the famed July 1945 conference that set the world stage for the next 45 years
- ◆ Group dinner in Berlin

## Tuesday, May 25: Historic Central Berlin

- ◆ Full-day walking tours of historic central Berlin; highlights include the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Tiergarten, Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, site of Hitler's Bunker, Wilhelmstrasse, walking down famed Unter den Linden, Friedrichstrasse, Bebelplatz, Museum Island (in the Spree River), the Berlin Cathedral to Alexanderplatz where in November 1989 half a million East Berliners demanded their freedom
- ◆ Dinner on your own

## Wednesday, May 26: Berlin in the Cold War

- ◆ Walking tour of Cold War Berlin events and personalities, with numerous sites including Checkpoint Charlie, part of the original Berlin Wall, and Tempelhof Airport where the AirBridge Memorial commemorates the brave pilots of the 1948-49 Airlift that kept West Berlin supplied under the Soviet noose
- ◆ Lunch on your own and afternoon to explore Berlin
- ◆ Farewell group dinner

## Thursday, May 27: Departure and Onward Journeys

- ◆ Check out of lodgings and begin onward journeys

For more information, email the Center for Presidential History at [cphinfo@smu.edu](mailto:cphinfo@smu.edu) or call 214.768.3210

Visit [www.historyexp.com](http://www.historyexp.com) for comprehensive daily itinerary & lodging information

Pricing: Alumni/friends: \$4,995, double occupancy; \$750 single supplement

\$1,000 of alumni/friend pricing is tax-deductible, for student scholarships

Students: Please contact the SMU Study Abroad office for pricing information

Itinerary subject to minor changes

Airfare not included

## CENTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL HISTORY & ESSENTIAL HISTORY EXPEDITIONS



Jeffrey A. Engel is founding director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University and a Senior Fellow of the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies. Author or editor of ten books on American foreign policy, his latest is *When the World Seemed New: George H.W. Bush and the End of the Cold War*.

Essential History Expeditions' president, expert historian and guide, Lt Col (Ret) Brian DeToy, PhD served as Director of the Defense & Strategic Studies program at the United States Military Academy, West Point from 2007-13. He has appeared in numerous documentaries for programming such as History, Discovery, A&E and Military channels. He is also an accomplished author and presenter at international history conferences.

