PRAGUE
NEW YEAR’S EVE SEMINAR
December 27, 2010, to January 3, 2011

A PROGRAM OF THE STANFORD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Dear Stanford Traveler,

Prague, “the city of a hundred spires,” has managed to retain much of its history and architectural integrity in the midst of a burgeoning and increasingly globalized Europe. But even if you’ve visited Prague before, nothing can prepare you for the magic and splendor of New Year’s Eve here, especially one spent at an exclusive gala held in the city’s opulent State Opera House. In addition to the ball, Eastern Europe expert Norman Naimark guides our understanding of this complex and beautiful city as we visit stunning castles, cathedrals, museums and monasteries.

We hope you can join us!

Best wishes from Stanford,

Brett S. Thompson, ’83
Director, Stanford Travel/Study

Join us on this Exploration by Land or visit us at www.stanfordalumni.org/travelstudy for dozens of other programs, including Active Adventures, Classic Journeys and Family Adventures.

Information

DATES
December 27, 2010, to January 3, 2011 (8 days)

SIZE
This Seminar is limited to 39 participants.

COST*
$7,995 per person, double occupancy
$9,195 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $100 per person.

INCLUDED
6 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations • 6 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners • Welcome reception • Bottled water on excursions • Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers for all group activities • All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport and visa fees • Immunization costs • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/ interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as email, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

ELIGIBILITY
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $100 more than the members’ price. Stanford alumni may become Annual ($75) or Life ($495) Members. Stanford parents, faculty, staff, interns, residents and fellows may become Installment Members ($90 down, $115/year for four years) or Life Members ($495). Nonalumni may become Life Affiliates (one-time fee, $650). Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, please call (650) 725-0692 or visit www.stanfordalumni.org/membership.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Lufthansa Airlines from San Francisco to Prague is approximately $1,300 as of February 2010 and is subject to change without notice.
Itinerary

Monday, December 27, 2010
DEPART U.S. / PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
Depart the U.S. on independent, overnight flights to Prague.

Tuesday, December 28
PRAGUE
Arrive in Prague, for centuries a haven of countless composers, musicians and writers. Check in to our five-star hotel, conveniently located in the city center. Late this afternoon, embark on an orientation walking tour of Old Town Square, stopping to admire the renowned 16th-century astronomical clock and the Municipal House, where we enjoy an exclusive peek at the Lord Mayor’s private rooms. Gather this evening for a champagne toast and an elegant welcome dinner at a renowned local restaurant, sampling Czech wines with our meal.
HOTEL PALACE PRAHA (D)

Wednesday, December 29
PRAGUE
Explore the Strahov Monastery to admire its breathtaking frescoes, and go behind the scenes to view the priceless collection of rare books and manuscripts in the monastery’s baroque library, which is off-limits to the public. Continue on to St. Vitus Cathedral with its magnificent stained-glass windows and St. Wenceslas Chapel, a Gothic masterpiece decorated with semi-precious stones and frescoes dating back to the 14th century. Conclude the morning at Lobkowicz Palace, which houses a special collection of master paintings. Tour the Kampa Museum, home of the world’s largest private collection of works by Frantisek Kupka, as well as the works of numerous other Czech artists. This evening attend a performance at the National Theater.
HOTEL PALACE PRAHA (B,L)

Thursday, December 30
PRAGUE / NELAHOZEVES / PRAGUE
Depart for an excursion outside the city, stopping first at the boyhood home of composer Antonín Dvořák. Continue to Nelahozeves, a Renaissance castle originally built in 1553 and privately owned for centuries by the Lobkowicz family. Admire the castle’s exterior sgraffito, a Germanic technique of wall decoration, and the Knight’s Hall with its beautifully preserved stone fireplace and ceiling paintings. Enjoy a special luncheon prepared for us at the castle before returning to Prague in the afternoon. Visit the Mozart Museum and view its priceless collection of musical scores, letters, instruments and other memorabilia from the composer’s time in Prague. Return to our hotel where the remainder of the evening is at leisure.
HOTEL PALACE PRAHA (B,L)
Friday, December 31

**PRAGUE / NEW YEAR’S EVE BALL**

This morning enjoy a walking tour that focuses on Prague’s Jewish heritage, including the Old Jewish Cemetery and historical synagogues. Lunch and the remainder of the afternoon are independent to rest and prepare for the evening’s celebrations. Depart for Prague’s State Opera House, where we enjoy a performance of *Die Fledermaus* and an exclusive gala complete with an elegant dinner, drinks and dancing.

**HOTEL PALACE PRAHA (B,D)**

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Saturday, January 1, 2011

**PRAGUE**

The morning is at leisure to relax after the New Year’s festivities. Then gather for a private lunch in one of Prague’s finest restaurants, located in Frank Gehry’s renowned Dancing House, with panoramic views of the city and the Vltava River. Late this afternoon, enjoy a private Renaissance and Baroque choral musical performance held in our honor at the Church of Our Lady of the Snows.

**HOTEL PALACE PRAHA (B,L)**

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Sunday, January 2

**PRAGUE**

Enjoy a private backstage tour of the Stavovské Theater (Estates Theater), where Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* premiered and which was one of the primary locations for the filming of the movie *Amadeus*. Continue on to the Dvořák Museum, housed in a graceful 19th-century home and featuring rare scores, manuscripts and mementos of the famed composer. Celebrate the conclusion of our gala week at a farewell dinner in one of Prague’s finest restaurants.

**HOTEL PALACE PRAHA (B,D)**

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Monday, January 3

**PRAGUE / U.S.**

Following breakfast in our hotel, transfer to the airport for independent flights back to the U.S.

**(B)**
Prague

Situated on the River Vltava in central Bohemia, Prague has been the political, cultural and economic center of the Czech state for more than a thousand years. The hub of three great dynasties and empires, the city has also served as a haven for leading composers, musicians, writers and artists. Prague’s role as a major cultural capital dates back seven centuries, and the city still offers an intoxicating mix of art, music and architecture. Standing on Charles Bridge and gazing up at the silhouette of Prague Castle and then over the countless spires, steeples and medieval towers of the Old Town, one is transported to another world where strains of Mozart still emanate from brightly painted old palaces.

Gala at the Prague State Opera House

A highlight of this Seminar is the New Year’s Eve Ball at the State Opera, an elegant night of fine entertainment, dinner and dancing held on the evening of December 31. Travel from our hotel by private car through the decorated city to the opera house. Commence the evening with a cocktail reception, followed by a performance of Johann Strauss’ *Die Fledermaus* presented in three acts. In between acts, savor a lavish buffet dinner featuring traditional Czech and international cuisine and complemented by an open bar. At midnight, usher in the New Year with a toast and then dance late into the night, capping a truly once-in-a-lifetime celebration!
**Terms & Conditions**

**Deposit & Final Payment**
A $1,000 deposit is required to hold space for the Prague New Year’s Eve Seminar. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

**Cancellations & Refunds**
Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $250-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

**Insurance**
Stanford Travel/Study provides travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes a special Waiver of Pre-Existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency and Terrorist Acts if you postmark your insurance payment within 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter.

**Responsibility**
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in February 2010 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

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**Reservation Form**

**PRAGUE NEW YEAR’S EVE SEMINAR**

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I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.

Signature ________________________________

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

- [ ] I wish to have single accommodations.
- [ ] I plan to share accommodations with ____________________
- [ ] I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Here is my deposit of $________ ($1,000 per person) for ___ space(s).

- [ ] Enclosed is my check (make payable to Stanford Alumni Association)
- [ ] Charge my deposit to my: [ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] American Express

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at www.stanfordalumni.org/trip?prague2010
What to expect

We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily programs may involve one to two miles of walking, sometimes over cobblestones or on unpaved streets in historic areas. In many instances, such as museums or cathedrals, guided tours require climbing up and down several flights of stairs where steps may be steep, uneven and/or without handrails, and elevators are limited or unavailable. Some sites and museums do not allow motorcoaches to pull directly in front, thus requiring a several minutes’ walk to reach the entrance. The weather will be quite cold in Prague, and the ground may be frozen and icy. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health. A detailed list of appropriate clothing and footwear suggestions will be sent to registered participants. We welcome travelers over the age of 15 on this program.

Faculty Leader

PROFESSOR NORMAN NAIMARK, ’66, MA ’68, PhD ’72, director of Stanford’s Bing Overseas Studies Program, has been working and traveling in East Central Europe for close to 40 years. A frequent visitor to Prague and the former Czechoslovakia, he states, “Prague is a lovely jewel of a city; no one should miss its Central European charm and beauty. At the same time, Czech history is full of tragedy and rebirth, which one can experience seeing the magnificent Castle and the bridges over the Vltava. At Christmastime, in particular, it is a magical place.” Professor Naimark, who has previously led some 20 Travel/Study programs, will lecture on the fascinating history of Prague and its place in Eastern Europe.

- Robert and Florence McDonnell Professor of Eastern European History, Stanford University
- Director, Bing Overseas Studies Program
- Senior fellow, Hoover Institution and Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Affairs
- Former chair, department of history, and former director, Center for Russian and East European Studies
Prague

Czech Republic

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