

EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

PRAGUE

Learning about yourself and the world around you happens both in and outside the classroom. Read below for an overview of the excursions and activities offered during your Verto experience!

Excursions

The following is a list of excursions that Verto organizes, included as part of your abroad experience fee. You may go on excursions with your Care Team, giving you the opportunity to get closer to your community while also seeing a new place! While some trips are consistent across both fall and spring semesters, others are specific to the time of year.

Fall Semester Excursions:

Day Trip: Kutná Hora

Just an hour outside of Prague, Kutná Hora offers a mix of history, architecture, and a little bit of the unexpected. On this day trip, students will visit the famous Bone Church (yes, it's decorated with real human bones) and explore the stunning St. Barbara's Cathedral. There's also time to wander the cobblestone streets, grab a coffee, and take in the vibe of this historic Czech town.

Day Trip: Karlštejn

A quick train ride from Prague, Karlštejn Castle is one of the Czech Republic's most iconic landmarks. Perched on a hill and surrounded by forest, the castle looks like it's straight out of a fairy tale. Students will hike up to the gates, tour the medieval halls, and learn about the castle's role in Czech history.

Overnight Trip: South Bohemia Trip

Weather permitting, we'll kick off the adventure with a river float from Vyšší Brod to Pískárna or a scenic cruise on Lake Lipno. In the evening, we'll gather in the small town of Černá v Pošumaví for a bonfire and talent show. The next day, we'll explore Český Krumlov, including a guided tour of its stunning castle, with free time to wander the charming town before heading back to Prague.

Spring Semester Excursions:

Day Trip: Kutná Hora

Same as above.

Day Trip: Terezín

Terezín (Theresienstadt) is a former military fortress in the Czech Republic, used by the Nazis during World War II as a ghetto and concentration camp. A day trip here offers a deeply moving and educational experience. The visit will help you learn about the history of the Holocaust, Jewish resilience, and the impact of totalitarian regimes.

Overnight Trip: Karlštejn and team building

This two-day experience combines culture, connection, and a bit of adventure. We'll start with a visit to the Nížbor Glassworks Factory to see traditional Czech glassblowing in action, followed by an afternoon of team-building activities designed to strengthen communication and community. The next morning, we'll head to Karlštejn Castle, where we'll hike up to tour the historic residence of King Charles IV and enjoy lunch at a local Czech restaurant before returning to Prague.

Experiential Learning

Every course includes experiential learning as part of its delivery. This may include visits outside of the classroom, guest speakers, or hands-on class activities.

Here are a few examples of potential experiential learning activities. Please note: The specific activities and courses described here are examples and may or may not be offered during term.

Museum of Communism, Seminar in Academic Inquiry and Writing

Visit the museum to better understand different aspects of life in Communist-era Czechoslovakia, particularly paying attention to education and propaganda in the media.

Prague Castle, Art History

Have your class in the famous Prague castle! What better place to learn about baroque architecture and presenting the information you've learned to your peers?

Mineral Exhibition at the National Museum, Geology

Access the special mineral exhibition at the Czech National Museum to view some of the minerals you've been learning about in class!

Activities

Throughout the semester, we offer a variety of activities to help students connect with each other, explore Czech culture, and unwind. From creative workshops to community visits and friendly competitions, there's something for everyone. Here are just a few examples of what you might experience:

Ping Pong Tournament: A little friendly competition never hurt anyone! Students can sign up solo or with a partner for a bracket-style ping pong tournament. It's a fun way to meet people, show off your skills (or just have a laugh), and maybe even win a prize.

Easter Workshop: Celebrate Czech springtime traditions by decorating your own Easter eggs, learning about local customs, and enjoying some sweet seasonal treats. Whether you're artistic or just here for the vibe, it's a cozy way to dive into local culture.

Care Team Banner Making: Channel your creativity and team spirit by designing a banner that represents your care team. We'll hang the finished banners around the student center as a colorful reminder of community all semester long.

Visit to Sapa (Little Hanoi in Prague): Take a trip to Prague's Vietnamese market district and explore the sights, tastes, and stories of one of the city's largest cultural communities. Expect delicious food, unique shops, and insight into the multicultural side of Czech life.

Self-Care Workshop: Studying abroad can be exciting, and a little overwhelming. This relaxed workshop offers simple tools for taking care of your mental and emotional well-being, including journaling, mindfulness, and check-in strategies.

Culture Shock + Adaptation Workshop: This workshop helps students recognize and work through culture shock while building strategies for adapting, connecting, and thriving in a new environment.

Student-led Activities: Our students are very proactive and contribute great activity ideas to our community. Our Peerleaders (chosen by each Care Team as a representative of the students' voice) take the lead to organize engaging activities and events to build a stronger community. During Discovery Week, you'll learn how to turn your ideas into action! Whether a sport, hobby, or initiative, thank you for bringing your passion to our community.

Independent Travel

During weekends, should you wish to travel away from your Verto location, **you must fill out the Independent Travel Log in the Verto Safe App** ([Android](#)/[Apple](#)) so we know where you're going. Don't worry, we're not going to track you! We just need to account for everyone in case of an emergency.

If you are 17 years old on-site in Prague, you will need to have a parent or guardian sign a form allowing you to travel independently.

Check out Verto's social media to learn where students have traveled in previous semesters!

More resources

- [How to take the Metro in Prague](#)
- [Tour around Prague with Verto](#)
- [Walking Tour](#)
- [Fall '22 Wrap up video](#)
- [Tower Day](#)