PRAGUE
Across the Centuries
Travel with Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Comparative Literature, Justin Cammy
May 22–30, 2016
Dear Smith Alumnae and Friends:

You are invited to spend a week embedded in the magic of Prague, exploring famous as well as out-of-the-way charms of the historic city. With its countless spires, stone bridges and looming towers, Prague can sometimes appear to be more of a myth than a modern capital city. The Charles Bridge, the Old Jewish Cemetery, and an unparalleled artistic and musical heritage make it a must-see cultural capital, one that has risen vigorously from the gloom of the Cold War.

Fascinating walking tours will provide insightful looks at the Prague Castle district, the Jewish ghetto, and Prague’s Cold War history. Several visits will highlight the city’s great theaters and musical and literary heritage. Two daylong excursions outside of Prague will offer a look at Konopiště Castle, famous as the last residence of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and an opportunity to visit the Terezin Monument dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust, during which Professor Justin Cammy will share how his family history is tied to this infamous fortress. With free time to enjoy Prague’s shops and backstreets, great meals such as a lunch in a Frank Gehry-designed restaurant, and an ideally located home base at the Grand Hotel Bohemia, this tour is the quintessential window to a great city.

Accompanying us is Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Comparative Literature Justin Cammy. Dr. Cammy believes in the importance of branching out beyond the classroom to share his learning with alumnae groups and the broader community. He has led several Smith alumnae trips to Poland and Israel, and has been the invited speaker to gatherings of many Smith alumnae groups. His personal ties to the city will undoubtedly add a unique and special touch to this program.

We hope that you will join us on this Smith-exclusive journey to experience the glorious history and artistic achievements of Prague.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director for Travel, Office of Alumnae Relations

For more information on this trip, please contact International Seminar Design, Inc. at 202-244-1448 or info@isditravel.com

ABOUT THE STUDY LEADER

Justin Cammy is Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Comparative Literature at Smith College, where he is also a member of the Program in Russian and Eastern European Studies and on the faculty advisory committee to the Lewis Global Studies Center. His grandparents lived in Prague prior to their deportation to the concentration camp Theresienstadt during World War II, and his mother was born there. He also serves on the advisory board to CET Prague, a study abroad program. His comparative literature courses regularly include study of Franz Kafka, a Prague native, and he uses family ephemera from the wartime years in his course on the Holocaust. In 2006 he was awarded the Shererd Award for Distinguished Teaching.
Sunday, May 22 • Departures from U.S.
Take independent overnight flights from the U.S. to Prague, Czech Republic.

Monday, May 23 • Arrival in Prague
Arrive in Prague, for centuries a haven for countless composers, musicians and writers. Check in at the Grand Hotel Bohemia, a five-star hotel conveniently located in the city center. Embark on a walking tour of Prague's historic district including the Old Town Square ringed with historic buildings such as a 16th-century astronomical clock and the impressive, double-spired Tyn Church. This evening, enjoy an elegant dinner at Francouzská Restaurant, known as the most beautiful Art Nouveau restaurant in the world.

Grand Hotel Bohemia (D)

Tuesday, May 24 • Prague’s Castle District & Mucha Museum
Begin at the Strahov Monastery’s baroque library to admire its breathtaking frescoes, and go behind the scenes to view its priceless collection of rare books and manuscripts. Next, explore Prague’s Castle complex, which has been the seat of Czech kings, emperors and presidents for thousands of years. Begin at the 14th-century St. Vitus Cathedral, with its magnificent stained-glass windows designed by famous Czech artists. Then, enter the Old Royal Palace to view the beautiful late-gothic Vladislav Hall, the former coronation room with its renowned vaulted ceiling. Continue by passing the Romanesque St. George’s Basilica to admire its exterior and walk through Golden Lane, an ancient street dating from the 15th century where fine artisans lived and worked. Relax over lunch at the renowned Fred & Ginger Restaurant located on the top floor of the Dancing House designed by Frank Gehry with breathtaking views of Prague Castle and Prague’s Little Quarter. After lunch, drive to the Mucha Museum, dedicated to the life and work of Czech Art Nouveau artist Alphonse Mucha, for a privileged view into the artist’s universe. The evening and dinner are at your leisure.

Grand Hotel Bohemia (B, L)

Wednesday, May 25 • Jewish Quarter & Estates Theatre
Attend a morning lecture led by Smith Professor Justin Cammy. Later, trace the history of Prague’s Jewish population on a guided walking tour stopping at a number of key monuments and civic spaces. The tour will start at the Jewish Quarter and progress into the Old Jewish Cemetery, which contains more than 12,000 tombs dating from the 15th to 19th centuries. Learn about Jewish architecture and design at the cemetery, Old-New Synagogue, and the Pinkas and Maisel Synagogues. Relax over a group lunch at a local restaurant. This afternoon, enjoy a private backstage tour of the Stavovské Theater (Estates Theater), where Mozart’s Don Giovanni premiered and one of the primary locations where the movie Amadeus was filmed. The tour concludes with a short concert played by members of the Estates Theater orchestra. The remainder of the afternoon and evening are at your leisure.

Grand Hotel Bohemia (B, L)

Thursday, May 26 • Terezin & Villa Muller
Attend a morning lecture led by Smith Professor Justin Cammy. After lunch, depart for Terezín, a former 18th-century Austrian fortress, which later became a World War II transit ghetto and concentration
camp for Jewish people, many of whom were later transported to Auschwitz. Learn how the Nazis used Terezín as a propaganda tool to deceive the International Red Cross inspectors and pay respect to those who lost their lives during this tragic episode of European history. Visit the entire complex and discover hidden traces of its dark past as well as the works of Jewish artists who secretly kept culturally active during their existence in the Ghetto. On our way back to Prague, stop at Villa Muller for a visit inside this 1930s modernist home designed by renowned Czech architect Adolf Loos. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

**Friday, May 27 • Musical & Literary Highlights of Prague** Begin at the Czech Museum of Music in the former baroque church of St. Mary Magdalene. View musical instruments by important Czech makers as examples of both craft and art. Exceptional items on display include a piano by Franz Xaver Christoph that was played by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1787. Walk to the nearby Vrtba Gardens situated on the slope of Petřín Hill. Stroll through the most precious and beautiful baroque gardens of Prague. Enjoy free time to have lunch at one of Prague’s restaurants in the Malá Strana district. Later, continue to the Kafka Museum and discover the life and work of one of the leading 20th-century literary figures. The remainder of the afternoon is independent. In the evening, enjoy a typical Czech dinner and attend an opera performance at one of the city’s three impressive theaters.

**Grand Hotel Bohemia (B, D)**

**Saturday, May 28 • Benešov & Konopiště Castle** Depart from Prague and head south toward the city of Benešov. Stop to explore the 17th-century Konopiště Castle, the resplendent summer residence of Archduke Ferdinand. Take a guided tour through this remarkable palace filled with paintings, statues, and curiosities and observe the lifestyle of supreme nobility. Have lunch at the charming Stará Myslivna Restaurant lodge. Return to Prague and enjoy the rest of the day for independent exploration.

**Grand Hotel Bohemia (B, L)**

**Sunday, May 29 • Strahov Monastery & Lobkowicz Palace** Begin with a guided tour exploring Prague’s communist era with a walk through Wenceslas Square and a visit at the Museum of Communism, which presents a vivid account of the totalitarian regime, from the February coup in 1948 to its rapid collapse in November 1989. Switch gears and visit inside the beautiful Art Nouveau Municipal House with an opportunity to view the Lord Mayor’s private rooms. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to discover Prague’s hidden gems. This evening gather for a private farewell gala reception and dinner at the Lobkowicz Palace. The evening will include a welcome drink, a visit through the Lobkowicz family’s special collection of master paintings, followed by a three-course dinner accompanied by a mini classical music concert played by a live flute and guitar duo.

**Grand Hotel Bohemia (B, D)**

**Monday, May 30: Departure for the U.S.** After breakfast, take independent transfers to Prague’s international airport for independent flights returning to the United States. (B)
Deposit and Final Payment
A deposit of $1,000 per paying participant is required to guarantee participation in the program. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa or MasterCard. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on Friday, February 12, 2016, by check only made out to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrants will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

Flights
Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their air arrangements, round-trip into and out of Prague Airport (PRG, Václav Havel Airport Prague).

Terms & Conditions
International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. ISDI, Smith College, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour. ISDI and Smith College reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, participants will be advised of additional surcharge before departure date.

Cancellations & Refunds
All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI, and are subject to a non-refundable administrative fee of $500 per person. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before February 12, 2016: full refund minus $500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between February 13 and April 7, 2016: 50% of tour cost per person (includes administrative fee). Cancellations received on or after April 8, 2016: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds are issued for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. If due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors you are required to spend an additional night, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not acceptable. The tour cost is non-transferable. If ISDI or Smith Travel cancels the tour, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments. Tour cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance is strongly recommended. A continuation letter and travel insurance application will be mailed to you upon receipt of your deposit from Smith Travel.

Travel Insurance:
The purchase of trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. A travel insurance brochure will be sent to you upon registration.

Tour Price Inclusions
Accommodations, as outlined in the itinerary; breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 3 dinners; land transportation by private motorcoach; entrance fees to sites per itinerary; 1 ticket to an opera performance; services of ISDI Tour Manager; expert local English speaking guides; gratuities to local guides and drivers; 2 glasses of wine or beer with welcome and farewell dinners; bottled water daily on motorcoach; taxes, services and portage fees; leadership of Smith College Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Comparative Literature, Justin Cammy.

Tour Price Exclusions
Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; airport portage; airport transfers upon arrival and departure in Prague; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler’s free time; personal items; personal services; travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage and tour cancellation; passport fees; visa fees; gratuities for hotel staff; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.
PRAGUE Across the Centuries  
May 22–30, 2016

Take a private tour through the Strahov Monastery’s library to view the priceless collection of rare books and manuscripts.

Experience a memorable farewell gala reception and dinner at the Lobkowicz Palace. Gain private access to view the Lobkowicz family’s Old Masters collection and listen to a live classical music concert played by a flute and guitar duo over an elegant three-course dinner.

Attend a musical performance at one of Prague’s highly acclaimed theaters.

Take a private backstage tour of the Stavovské Theater (Estates Theater), where Mozart’s Don Giovanni premiered and one of the primary locations where the movie Amadeus was filmed, followed by a short concert played by members of the Estates Theater orchestra.