

Dear Friends,

Keron and I are excited to announce our program for the Spring and Fall of 2015. Just assembling the itinerary and discussing the ins and outs of all the opportunities has us ready to go now! We hope you'll be as anxious as we are for all the fun to begin. With Keron's connections in Portugal (**tour dates September 16 to 27**) and my frequent travel there we are certain that this tour will exceed all your expectations. And of course, we have the success of our September 2014 tours to build on!

"Visiting and photographing Portugal with Arthur and Keron provided a mix of photography, history, food, and fun. Arthur's wit and Keron's graciousness set the tone for the whole group and they were always there for additional information or inspiration.

It was a perfect trip and I left with new knowledge, new memories, new photographs, and new friends. ~N. Lehrer, Los Angeles, CA



In Prague, (**tour dates Prague/Istanbul ...June 5 through 16, or 19**) we'll have the benefit again of a deep knowledge of and love for the city. Keron has been working on a personal project there since 2010 and is anxious to show us the sights and sounds of Prague. It is renowned for its musical heritage, so for those who are interested, we'll take an evening off from shooting and listen to music

in one of its gorgeous Baroque churches. And then it's off to Istanbul where I have visited and worked a number of times. Wonders of the world await us, as well as the colors, sounds and scents from the old markets. The fairytale landscape of Cappadocia, magical whirling Dervishes and ancient ruins will fill our days and enchant our nights.

PORTUGAL!

September 16 through 27,
11 nights, 12 days, and a whole lot of fun!

3 nights in Lisbon to take in all the neighborhoods from our hotel in the center of all! We'll enjoy walks in the Alfama, along the waterfront and Praca Comercio, up into the Bairro Alto and



further afield in Belem for the history and architecture. A delightful night of Fado (traditional Portuguese music) and time on your own to revisit your favorite spots. Keron will have suggestions for great dining spots and will include these in the tour packet upon registration. That way, for those wishing to arrive early, you will have some places to explore and a fine meal to enjoy without the stress of wondering where to go!



Departing Lisbon on the third morning we'll spend the day in the Ribatejo, the agricultural area that is home to the Lusitano horses that Keron loves so much. We'll photograph gorgeous horses at liberty, then enjoy lunch in a local cantina before going to Ana Batista's to photograph her in training in the

bullring. Ana is the top female bullfighter in the world, and best of all, extremely photogenic! Later, the traditional Sopa de Pedra awaits for our dinner and then on to Ourem where we'll stay two nights.

2 nights in Ourem

Way on top the hill with commanding views of the valley below, Ourem Castle is a quaint village founded in the 9th century. This will be our base to explore several UNESCO World Heritage sites: Batahla and Tomar. Keron loves history and will be happy to give you as much as you can stand at each of the locations! Light, architecture, texture and mystery are the photo opportunities on tap for this day!



Ourem is also the first of three charming Pousadas (small hotels) that we will enjoy. A very special evening awaits us in the private home and garden of Keron's friend, Father John Mariani. Early mornings can be magical in Ourem....mist is often layered in the valley below with small farms and traditional houses peaking out of the clouds.

3 nights in Porto

After departing our castle home, we'll make our way north to Porto. We'll have a stop



along the way for lunch and a leg stretch, then continue to our magnificent Pousada, The Freixo Palace. We'll have an evening tour and shoot in Porto to get acquainted with the city. Dinner at the Pousada is a must! Their dining room is superb. And if you are a swimmer, the pool here is marvelous with views of the river and an elegant pool bar and gardens. Some incredible images were made in just this spot in September. Look out for stunning reflections and geometry!

In Porto we'll also have a private tour of Graham's Cellars, the renowned Port producer. After the tour there will be a private tasting....and after that, dinner in the fabulous Vinum restaurant in our own special room. A night shoot high above Porto will fill out our day. Timed exposures, boats moving along the Douro with the city lights behind, and composing the grand cityscape will be our photo opportunities. The last day in Porto will find us out along the coast in the Matosinhos and Foz de Douro areas.....so we can go to one of Arthur's favorite places for lunch: Dom Peixe! Then we'll have some evening shoots on our own so that we can revisit our favorite places in Porto.





3 nights in Queluz

While leaving our Palace in Porto will be heartbreaking, we're headed to another fabulous Pousada in Queluz. But first, an afternoon in Obidos, a 12th century walled village. Winding cobblestone lanes, flowering vines, castle ramparts and charming village churches await. We'll have lunch and

lots of time to wander in Obidos, then continue to Queluz. Dinner in the dining room of the Pousada is absolutely enchanting. It's the old kitchen, the Cozinha Vehlá, of the Palacio Nacional de Queluz; think petite Versailles with more old-world charm. We'll rise the next day and take a leisurely stroll across the street to photograph in the gardens and Palace. There will be a performance by the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art as well as a Falconry demonstration (provided it is not pouring rain!) Later in the afternoon we'll head to the beach at Cascais and then to the village of Cascais for shooting in the small fishing harbor. We'll take off the next day for a full day in Sintra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Pena Palace, the Regaleira and the Convento dos Capuchos (a favorite spot of Keron's) will offer color, scenics, architecture, details, mystery and moodiness. In short, a photographer's dream day. Lunch on our own in Sintra, but leave time for a little shopping. Sintra is a great spot to pick up something perfect for friends back home. For our final dinner together we'll go back to Cascais to a spectacular waterfront location.

As you can tell, it is FULL of marvelous photo opportunities, cultural experiences, fine dining (and wines!). In short, the best that Portugal has to offer from an insider's point of view. Though all good things must come to an end, your departure will be smooth. From our Pousada in Queluz, we are an easy 15 minutes from the airport in Lisbon. Transportation will be arranged.



The Details for PORTUGAL:

11 nights and 12 days, all breakfasts included, 3 dinners included (opening get-together, dinner at Father Mariani's, and our closing dinner in Cascais), all internal transportation undertaken as a group, special guides in Sintra, luggage transfers and tips to hotel staff, and your final taxi to the airport.

Highlights:

- *Charming and luxurious lodging in perfectly situated hotels and Pousadas
- *An insider's view of Portugal from the cities to the UNESCO sites and villages
- *Photograph gorgeous Lusitano horses in the Ribatejo with their owners and trainers
- *Enjoy colorful and cosmopolitan Lisbon and Porto
- *Private transportation with short distances between stays
- *Sumptuous meals with the option of the best Portuguese wines
- *Small group (no more than 12) with two leaders and special guides in Sintra

Cost per person, double occupancy: \$5750, Cost per person, single: \$6770
Special incentive for Portugal.....Early bird sign-up before January 24: \$250
discount per person. Deposit of \$1500 due upon sign-up.

Not included: international air, initial taxi from airport to hotel in Lisbon, meals except as noted above, tips for maids, tips for guides, tip for bus driver. Suggestions will be offered for guides and driver before the trip begins.



Trip 2....PRAGUE/ISTANBUL Adventure!

Prague and Istanbul, **June 5 through June 16, or June 19** with additional days in Cappadocia. Adventure, mystery, and exotic locales await!

Keron and I are so pleased to be creating this adventure for you. With Keron's frequent travel to and exploration of Prague and the Czech Republic, we feel confident that

we'll be sharing not only the wonders of this Baroque city, but the history and hidden parts that will make you feel like you've come to know the city on a very personal level.

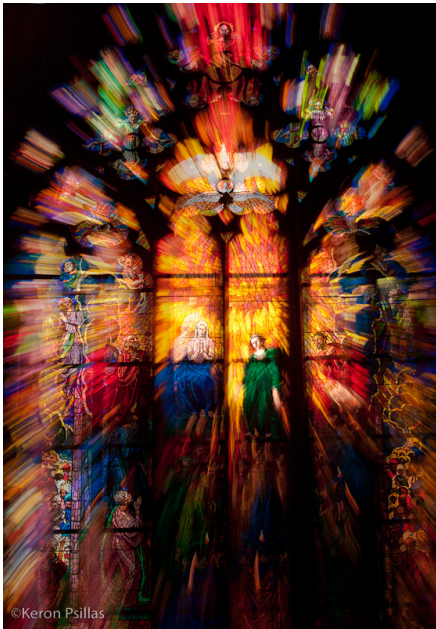
We'll be making excursions to Kutna Hora and Czesky Krumlov (UNESCO site), as well as a trip up to Terezin to gain a deeper perspective of more recent history. And then it is on to Istanbul! The glittering gem on the Bosphorus. Jewel box mosques and churches...slender spires, and bustling, exotic markets will create a feast for all our senses. I've journeyed to Istanbul and Turkey a number of times and it is one of my favorite places on the globe. There is an incredible energy in the city...and then the dreamlike



landscape of Cappadocia offers another side of this multifaceted land. We've engaged the services of Kemal Nuraydin and his company to ensure we have the same personal experience in Turkey that we'll enjoy in Prague. Kemal is a contributor to and past editor of National Geographic in Turkey. His knowledge and contacts will be our key to moving past the tourist photo into the deep, exotic background of Istanbul. But don't worry! We'll have plenty of time to explore the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia, and all the other cultural icons!

The Itinerary:

6 nights in Prague...that's right...no changing hotels for six nights! And what a hotel we have! The Alchemist Nosticova Palace will be our home base. Located in the Mala Strana, away from the busy tourist center but just steps away from the Charles Bridge, we'll have an idyllic location that still has us walking distance to all the best sites in Prague. The Nosticova Palace is part of the Alchemist Luxury group...and though smaller (hence the 4 stars rather than 5) it is more charming and intimate...and a better location for wandering photographers! The Mala Strana (or lesser town) is a Baroque



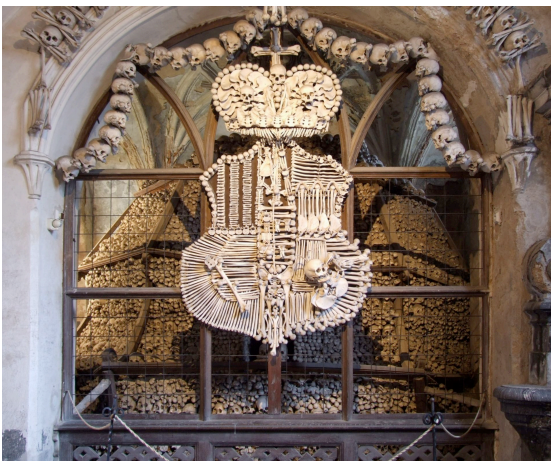
paradise filled with embassies, great restaurants, and charming parks. Just up the hill is St. Vitus' cathedral and the largest castle in all of Europe. If we wander down the hill through Kafka's Golden lane, we'll then cross the Charles Bridge. We'll find the Old Town, the Astronomical Clock, the Mucha museum, the Josefov (Jewish Quarter) and Wenceslas Square, the Blacklight theatre...all the churches with live music almost nightly...in short, a cultural paradise.

But we'll be visiting Hidden Prague as well. The winding lanes and covered arcades that the tourists don't use will find us discovering a Prague that is rarely seen, much less photographed. We'll have a special guide for a few walking

tours that will offer insider tips and take us on an historical and visual trip through forgotten Prague.

We will venture outside of the city for a full day tour to Kutna Hora and Czesky Krumlov. Both are UNESCO World Heritage sites...and for good reason! The view from the Castle that overlooks the village of Czesky Krumlov is incomparable. A gorgeous river wraps around the village forming a graceful curve and nestled in its embrace are fairytale-like cottages and lanes. We'll arrive here in the afternoon for softer light (tea and strudel) and quieter streets. But first, we'll stop in Kutna Hora. We'll depart early in the morning to reach this 12th century town, famous for and made wealthy by its silver mines. We'll

visit the Sedlec Ossuary and St. Barbara's church with a special guide for greater understanding. After lunch we'll head further south to reach Czesky Krumlov.



Another day will find us going just about 40 km north to visit Terezin, known as Theresienstadt during World War 2. Keron has visited here many times and knows the horrific history of this garrison town. She'll offer as much insight as desired. This will be a half-day excursion, then back to Prague to revisit some of your favorite places!

Prague is a walker's city. Which is a good thing as we'll be dining on lots of delicious Czech food. (dumplings, cabbage, and APPLE STRUDEL). Of course there are many chic and more inventive dining choices and Keron will have great suggestions. But the apple strudel is not to be missed! And did you know that beer originated in the Czech Republic? Yes, in Pilsen. (hence, Pilsener). And Budweiser comes from Budvar, very near Czesky Krumlov. On the morning of the 11th, we'll fly to Istanbul! The airfare and transfers are



all part of your package. Our lodging in Istanbul is another glorious location, within walking distance to all the amazing sights, sounds and scents that the Sultanmhet area has to offer. Here we'll be joined by Kemal Nuraydin and members of his staff to show us the most engaging places in all of Istanbul. Kemal's credentials and his

photographer's eye will have us in all the right places at the right times to create fantastic images. I love Istanbul and cannot wait to return!



We'll have 5 nights and 6 days in Istanbul and another spectacular hotel to call home for our visit. This will allow us to photograph all of the wondrous locations and give us the rare luxury to return to our favorites at different times of the day to capture the scene in different light. The Hagia Sofia, the Blue Mosque, the Grand Bazaar, nights along the Bosphorus, quiet mornings in the parks, in short, the treasure chest of the crossroads of the world await us.

After 6 days in Istanbul, we have arranged a special add-on. For those who would like to extend their tour, we'll have the opportunity to fly to Cappadocia! **(June 16 through 19)** We'll have three nights there in a hotel built right into the caves. It's truly an enchanting place. With the caves, the dream-like landscape of tufa and mushroom towers....**and a balloon adventure at dawn to see it all?** Well. The magic never ends.

We'll have Kemal's staff and our own private bus when needed to take us to all the sites in the surrounding valleys. We'll be out of the hustle-bustle of the city, but still feasting on exotic scenery and culture. We've arranged easy transfers (part of the add-on package) by air to and from our location in Cappadocia. We'll be up early for dawn light shifting over other-worldly rock formations, and spending afternoons visiting small villages that seem to exist in a time of centuries ago. Glowing sunsets or a quiet dinner on a terrace await at the end of each day. Three nights in Cappadocia will be the perfect ending to a great two weeks of camaraderie, learning, and exhilarating photography.



The Details for Prague/Istanbul: **11 nights and 12 days** of world class photography, luxury, and adventure....

Six nights in Prague from **June 5 through 11**, all transportation in the city except initial transfer from airport (PRG is airport code) to hotel. All breakfasts, two very special dinners, entrances to ticketed locations, bus and private guides are included. Not included: tips to guides, other meals, other discretionary transportation (taxis during your free time).



Transfer to Istanbul via air on June 11, (included in package), **5 nights** lodging in Istanbul, all breakfasts, one group dinner, entrance fees to ticketed locations, very special private guides and all transportation in the city via private bus, return to airport for departure or continuation to Cappadocia on **June 16**. Not included: tips to guides, discretionary transport during your free time, other meals.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- *5* lodging in Prague and Istanbul in perfect locations for photography
- *Insider's view of Prague with special guides for insightful tours
- *History, architecture, culture, and all the Baroque glory that is Prague.
- *Four special dinners in stunning locations
- *Day trips to Czesky Krumlov, Kutna Hora and Terezín with special guides
- *Top guides in Istanbul and Cappadocia that will put us in great spots at the right time for the best photo opportunities
- *Balloon ride at dawn over the dreamlike landscape of Cappadocia
- *All air transfers from Prague to Istanbul and Cappadocia





**Cost per person, double occupancy: \$6550,
per person single, \$7600**

**Optional add-on to Cappadocia, June 16-19,
including air, private bus, luxurious cave hotel
and exclusive balloon trip with a very special
meal at trip's end: per person double occupancy,
\$2400, per person single, \$3100. Deposit of
\$2000 per person due upon signup. Early bird
discount for sign-up before January 24: \$250**

**Our trip concludes with the transfer back to the
airport in Istanbul on the 19th, arriving in the
early afternoon, in time for you to make
connections to the United States or other
destinations.**



We will be waiting to hear from you. Our trips last year were full in less than a week, so don't delay! And please, tell your friends. Traveling companions are so important to the group dynamic.

Wishing you good health and contentment with lots of good shooting in the New Year!
Arthur and Keron

