

Prague or Tallinn?

Andrew and Bethany want to have a holiday abroad, but they don't know where to go. Basil may be able to help.

Andrew: Do you know that Bethany and I haven't been abroad for years? We've been on holiday to some lovely parts of the UK, but it's not the same thing.

Basil: Is that because of...?

A: Yes, it is. But we've decided it's time to get back on a plane and go somewhere exciting. We don't want to fly too often, because of the environment, so when we do fly we want to go somewhere really worth going to.

B: What's first on the list?

A: We haven't really got a list yet. I was wondering whether you could recommend somewhere.

B: How long do you want to go for?

A: Bethany can only manage a week.

B: Okay. City or country?

A: At this time of year, we fancy a city break. Somewhere pretty, with plenty of culture, and decent food of course.

B: As you've only got a week, I think you should stay in Europe. Two of my favourite European cities are Prague and Tallinn.

A: I've heard good things about Prague, but I've never been there. Where's Tallinn though?

B: It's the capital of Estonia.

A: Oh, I should know that. So which is nicer?

B: If you're interested in architecture, then go to Prague. It has wonderful buildings in so many different architectural styles. It even has the world's only cubism museum. You could spend a week just wandering round the city taking photos. Amazing place.

A: I think you've sold Prague to me already. So what about Tallinn?

B: Tallinn has a historic city centre too, but it's much smaller. It has a special atmosphere though. Prague gets a lot of tourists, but we went to Tallinn in February and we were pretty much the only tourists there. We went on a day trip to the forest and we visited a little museum by the sea. It's run

by an elderly couple and they served us a home cooked meal of salmon and potatoes. I have such strong memories of that trip. Oh, and they have giant swings there!

B: Giant swings?

A: Swings that can hold twenty people. It's an Estonian tradition.

B: Did you pick up any Estonian while you were there?

A: Only a couple of sentences. It's hard.