

RYBAK EUROPE TOUR

August 13 – 25, 2011

Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

Saturday, August 13

Depart from **Houston airport** and fly in direction of Europe, **Austria, Vienna**.

Sunday, August 14

Arrival in **Vienna**, the luxury bus with attendant team (including your tour guide) will be waiting for you at the airport and take you to the first destination which is Vienna downtown. Have a short sightseeing tour of the city which has been an imperial city for more than six centuries. The ruling Habsburg dynasty left a definite mark on it. Take a circle within the Ringroad, constructed in 1857, 2,5 miles long, surrounded by the representative buildings (National Opera House, New Townhall, National Theatre, Parliament, museums, universities, fancy hotels and shops). If time allows we will get off at Hofburg – imperial palace which accommodated the Habsburgs until 1918, walk passing the courtyards, St. Augustine Church where the hearts of the Habsburgs are deposited in the crypt and where all royal weddings took place and finish the tour with St. Stephen Church. Leave for the **Czech Republic**, southeastern part of the country, **Moravia**, check-in our hotel in Velke Bilovice. Leisure time.

Monday, August 15

Leave for the central part of **Moravia, Wallachia**, stop enroute in **Strážnice**, a small town visited yearly by thousands of people only because of the International folklore festival held here in June. Visit the family owned blueprint fabric workshop where you can see the traditional way of special Moravian blueprint pattern used to decorate the dress of our grandmas and have a chance of purchase of such items including some handicrafts. Another destination will be **Kvetna**, where we get to see the way of production of traditional Czech glass in the local glassworks including shopping in the factory shop for reasonable price. Arrival in **Zlin**, the county's capital. Check-in our hotel.

Tuesday, August 16

Leave for **Vizovice**, the so-called "Gate to Wallachia". Visit a beautiful chateau built in the first half of the 18th century with extensive French and English park. Enjoy the richly furnished chateau with collections of porcelain and paintings. Vizovice is known for its tradition of Slivovitz making, summer festival of plum harvesting. Visit a distillery of **Jelinek** producing all kinds of fruit spirits including **Slivovitz** (typical wallachian drink made of plums). See the production and you will get to taste a few samples as well! Shopping in the crystal shop, offers also china and other Czech gifts enjoyed by US tourists. Horse-race track and golf course inside located nearby. Check-in our hotel in Zlin, the county's capital, the birthplace of the most famous shoe-maker in the world, Tomas Bata. In the evening party with **Veselanka band** playing Czech and Moravian songs and which has toured Texas four times. Dancing - drinking - singing = have a great time!

Wednesday, August 17

Arrive in **Frenstat**, Czech museum in Frenstat devoted to those who emigrated to USA is the first place to visit in the morning. Time for shopping or individual stroll in the town or chance to visit **Kopřivnice** center, where in 1853 a manufacture of carriages was set up, which later became the Tatra Automobile Works. In 1897 the first car in the austro-Hungarian Empire was produced here. You will visit a Technical Museum with a collection of more than 60 Tatra vehicles. Now the owner is Mr. Adams from West, Texas. Check-in our hotel in **Trojanovice**. Leave for the venue with ski-jumps constructed to train new talents after the native became the Olympic winner in Grenoble in the 1960's. Another stop will be in **Lichnov**, the Texas museum consisting of records on the emigrants to Texas from this region. Finish the day with enjoyable evening party at **Koliba Vlčina** - moravian wine, music and grilled chicken - "Everyone's favourite place "quiant"! You will always remember Vlčina. Do not miss the party!!

Thursday, August 18

Leave for **Prague**, the capital of the Czech Republic. Stop enroute in **Moravian Karst**, one of the most important karst area of Central Europe. In the area of Moravian Karst, there are more than 1100 caverns and gorges. But only 4 caves of the all number are open to public. We will experience the Punkevní jeskyne (**Punkva Caves**) with their underground river – during the cruise you can see the bottom of the famous Macocha Abyss. Arrive in Prague, check-in close to the downtown area. In the evening enjoy the **boat cruise on Vltava River** including a buffet dinner! See the beauties of the capital – beautifully illuminated Prague Castle, Vyšehrad-Upper Castle, National Theatre and other sights of Prague.

Friday, August 19

In the morning leave for the tour of the highlights of **historical Prague**. Start in Hradcany at the grounds of Prague castle, changing of the guards; tour the 3 courtyards and one of the most visible landmarks of the capital, the St. Vitus Cathedral. Go down the Lesser Quarter, cross the Charles Bridge which was built in the 14th century, the oldest one in Prague. We walk on to Old Town Square to see the famous Astronomical clock, Prague horologe and the procession of the Apostles. In the afternoon end up the tour at the Wenceslas Square, the lively centre of everyday life featuring all kinds of stores, banks, cinemas, restaurants etc., free time for a stroll in this main shopping zone. In the evening you have the option of the entertainment, either enjoy the light and music show accompanied with music at **Krizik's fountain** or spend some time in the most famous and oldest beer joint in Prague called **U Fleku** established in 1499 (live accordion music and beer from the local brewery)...or rest at the hotel.

Saturday, August 20

Leave for **Plzen**, the fourth largest town in the Czech Republic. At the end of the Second World War the town was heavily bombed and liberated by the American Army on 6 May 1945. You will see the memorial to the American army and step on the piece of American land and look inside of the General Patton museum devoted to the history of the II. War in the connection of the Plzen liberation. Tour the museum of **brewery Pilsner Urquell** and brewery itself where you can experience the past and present of brewing beer in the Czech Republic. Depart to **Germany, Nuremberg**, check-in.

Sunday, August 21

In the morning, we will have a sightseeing tour of the modern part of **Nuremberg**, the **Nazi center**, and the judicial building where trials of WWII war criminals took place. We will also view the unfinished Coliseum Hitler ordered to be built as a grandiose copy of the Coliseum in Rome and Zeppelin Field where all the parades took place. We will round out our tour of Nuremberg in the medieval part of the city where we will see the ancient castle overlooking the city, the Church of Our Lady on the main market square, and other points of interest. Time for shopping in the downtown area. Leisure time in the afternoon for a stroll and shopping downtown. If circumstances allow, we may enjoy a typical German party in the outdoor area close to Nuremberg.

Monday, August 22

Leave for **Munich**, the capital of Bavaria region. Optional program, tour of the **BMW automobile factory** or time for shopping. Check-in our hotel downtown. Tour of Munich, the center of economic and cultural activity in southern Germany; it's one of Germany's most attractive cities where every year the largest beer festival Oktoberfest takes place. Walking tour of the historic core of Munich – the main square Marienplatz with a new town hall built in the neo-Gothic style and possessing an animated carillon, Church of Our Lady, the vast Late Gothic hall-church which has become the symbol of the city. Spend the evening in the famous porter house – **Hofbräuhaus** which dates from 1589. This is the favorite place where every day 17,500 pints of beer in 1 ¾ pint tankards is served. There is a generous pub buffet that features an array of Bavarian specialties. You will surely enjoy an evening of Bavarian traditional music with the live band – in the one-of-a-kind atmosphere of the restored festival hall from the year 1897.

Tuesday, August 23

Leave for **Switzerland**, stop enroute in **Liechtenstein**, the fourth smallest autonomous state in the world, it is one of the last monarchies place. Visit the capital **Vaduz** with the Vaduz castle situated on the hill overlooking the town, the residence of the Prince of Liechtenstein. Continue on our way to Switzerland, check-in our hotel in the **Zurich** area.

Wednesday, August 24

A day trip to **Luzern** which occupies a remarkable site at the end of the lake Lucerne. It is a town where the Reuss River resumes its flow. The symbol of Luzern is 500 ft long wooden covered bridge across the river. Enjoy the tour of this beautiful town as well as the so-called **Golden trip** which involves a ride by a cable car up to the top of the mountain Pilatus (5000ft. high), a ride down by steepest railway in the world to the lake Lucerne and a boat cruise back to Luzern. This is one of the most enjoyable and unforgettable trips. Come back to the hotel. Dinner.

Thursday, August 25

Leave for the **Zurich airport** early in the morning. Fly back home on the flight to **Houston airport**.

***Itinerary subject to change depending on availability.**

ACCOMODATIONS

Sunday	August 14	CZECH REPUBLIC	Velké Bílovice
Mon, Tue	August 15,16	CZECH REPUBLIC	Zlín
Wednesday	August 17	CZECH REPUBLIC	Frenštát/Trojanovice
Thu, Fri	August 18,19	CZECH REPUBLIC	Prague
Sat, Sun	August 20,21	GERMANY	Nuremberg
Monday	August 22	GERMANY	Munich
Tue, Wed	August 23,24	SWITZERLAND	Zurich area

Tour Price: \$3,295 per person based on double occupancy (includes flight, accommodation, bus, program, breakfast and dinner every day, 5 x lunches, drinks with group meals, drinks and a little buffet on the bus, music)

Single supplement: \$250/person (if rooming single)

Passports: Some countries require that your passport be valid at least six months beyond the dates of your trip and/or have two to four blank visa/stamp pages. Some airlines will not allow you to board if these requirements are not met. For renewing or applying for a new passport as well as info, visit:

<http://travel.state.gov/passport/>

There will be 2 deposits:

First deposit due when you sign up: \$1,500
Second one by July 1, 2010: \$1,795

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Price and services may change due to fluctuating currencies.