

RYBAK EUROPE TOUR

June 27 – July 9, 2012

Austria, Czech Republic, Germany

Wednesday, June 27

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

Thursday, June 28

Arrival in Vienna, the luxury bus with attendant team (including your tourguide) 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**, eastern part of the country, Moravia, check-in at our hotel in **Velke Bilovice**. Leisure time.

Friday, June 29

Leave for the central part of **Moravia, Vallachia**, 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, the birthplace of the most famous shoe-maker in the world, Tomas Bata. Check-in at our hotel. Optional visit to the one of a kind exposition of shoes in the museum where you experience the largest collection of shoes coming from all around the world.

Saturday, June 30

Leisure time for shopping or anything else you desire. In the afternoon 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! 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!

Sunday, July 1

Depart to **Hostyn** to attend a **Sunday mass**. The former monastery (1721-1748) and the well-known pilgrimage Church Of Our Lady who protected the residents from the Turk raid is located in a beautiful scenery of Hostynske mountains. It is the second mostly visited pilgrimage place in Moravia and also a very good place to buy religious articles. Arrive in **Frenstat**. **Czech museum** in Frenstat devoted to those who emigrated to USA is the first place to visit in this area. Check-in at our hotel in **Trojanovice**, optional cable car ride up to Pustevny and the mountain Radhost which is the highest point of Beskydy mountains at the elevation 4700ft above sea level.

Monday, July 2

Leave for **Roznov pod Radhostem**, experience one of the most popular tourist destinations in this part of the country – the **Wallachian wooden village** – the oldest part of the Wallachian Open-Air-Museum. The buildings more than 100 years old stand here all originally furnished. You can see the way of life of your ancestors with typical examples of furniture, equipment etc. Another part of the open-air museum is the Mill valley with the real examples of how people used to live in the mountains. Another stop will be in **Lichnov**, the **Texas museum**

consisting of records on the emigrants to Texas from this region. Leave for the venue with ski-jumps constructed to train new talents after the native became the Olympic Winter in Grenoble in the 1960's. Finish the day with enjoyable evening **party** at **Koliba Vlčina** - moravian wine, music and grilled chicken - "Everyone's favorite place "quaint"! You will always remember Vlčina. Do not miss the party!!

Tuesday, July 3

Depart to **Kopřivnice**. Time for shopping or individual stroll in the town or a 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. Leave for Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. 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.

Wednesday, July 4

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.

Thursday, July 5

Leave for **Germany** early in the morning. Stop enroute in the famous **spa town** of **Karlovy Vary**, which is the largest in the Czech Republic, owing international fame to its natural mineral springs. There are 60 springs altogether, but only 12 of them are used. We will have a short tour of the promenade, and then you may enjoy the sights and sounds of this beautiful town. You may shop in many of the quaint shops which sell **Bohemian crystal**, garnet and amber jewelry, and typical spa round wafers of different flavors. Continue on our way to Nuremberg.

Friday, July 6

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.

Saturday, July 7

Leave for **Munich**, the capital of **Bavaria region**. Optional program, tour of the **BMW automobile factory** or time for shopping. Check-in at our hotel downtown. Tour of Munich, the centre of economic and cultural activity in southern Germany, its one of Germany's most attractive cities where every year the largest beer festival **Oktoberfest** take 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. Stop also in the famous porter house – **Hofbräuhaus** which dates from 1589. This is the favorite place where every day 17500 pints of beer in 1 ¼ pint tankards is served. Continue on our way to **Salzburg**, check-in.

Sunday, July 8

We will get to the top of the **Untersberg mountain** in a spacious cabin of a **cable car**. During your ride, you will have magnificent views of the Rositten Valley and the surrounding mountains. From the cable car station atop the mountain, you can hike to the **Geiereck** (almost 6000 ft.), visit the mountain climbers memorial, or walk to the **Salzburg Hochthron mountain** (6089 ft.). From the summit, you'll be able to see the beautiful Salzburg Lake District, as well as the ice-capped Hohen Tauern mountains. You will also want to visit the Hochalm restaurant and the Zeppezauer house while on the Untersberg. After that depart for the **Eagle's Nest** situated just a few miles from Salzburg in Germany. It was given to Adolf Hitler for his 50th birthday. Very few of the original furnishings remain. There is now a restaurant there, but you can still view the original tea room with a fireplace made of Carrara marble – a gift from Mussolini. The view of the surrounding **mountains** with Salzburg in the background is unforgettable. The road leading to the Eagle's Nest parking lot was blasted out of solid rock making a road that is unique in the world. We will go by bus especially adjusted to the narrow road. We'll return back to **Salzburg** to enjoy the tour of this one of the most beautiful cities of Europe, you will see the Mozart memorial on **Mozart Square**, Residenz Square, the Cathedral, the fortress Hohensalzburg overlooking the city, time for shopping.

Monday, July 9

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

*Itinerary subject to change depending on availability.

ACCOMODATIONS

Thursday	June 28	CZECH REPUBLIC	Velké Bílovice
Fri, Sat	June 29,30	CZECH REPUBLIC	Zlín
Sun, Mon	July 1,2	CZECH REPUBLIC	Frenštát/Trojanovice
Tue, Wed	July 3,4	CZECH REPUBLIC	Prague
Thu, Fri	July 5,6	GERMANY	Nuremberg
Sat, Sun	July 7,8	AUSTRIA	Salzburg

TOUR PRICE: \$3,599 / per person based on double occupancy (includes accommodation, flights, bus, program, breakfast and dinner everyday, 5x lunch, drinks with group meals, drinks and little buffet on the bus)

Single supplement: 250.- USD/person (if rooming single)

FLIGHTS:

AF 639	June 27	Houston	4:10PM	Paris	8:35AM+1day
AF 1556	June 28	Paris	10:00AM	Vienna	12:05PM
AF 1123	July 9	Munich	7:20AM	Paris	9:00AM
AF 636	July 9	Paris	10:40AM	Houston	2:00PM

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:	\$1,800
Second one by May 1, 2012:	\$1,799

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Price and services may change due to fluctuating currencies.