



CHRIS & EDITA RYBAK EUROPE TOUR

May 31 – June 11, 2009

Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Italy, Vatican
10 days in Europe



Sunday, May 31

Depart from Houston airport and fly in direction of Europe, Czech Republic, Prague.

Monday, June 1

Arrival in **Prague**, the capital of the **Czech Republic**. 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 Prague downtown. Check-in. Leisure time for you to do whatever you desire. 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.

Tuesday, June 2

In the morning **sightseeing tour of Prague**. Start at the grounds of Prague Castle with St. Vitus Cathedral, Hradcany quarter, Church of Our Lady Victorious with a famous wax statue of Prague Infant Jesus, walk across the famous Charles Bridge, the oldest one in Prague which was built in the 14th century. On to Old Town Square to see the Astronomical clock, Prague horologe and the procession of Apostles. After lunch end up the tour at Wenceslas Square which was the venue of many events including the 1989 Velvet Revolution demonstrations. Have free time for individual sightseeing and great shopping in numerous stores lining the square. In the evening enjoy the **boat cruise on river Vltava including a buffet dinner!** See the beauties of the capital – beautifully illuminated Prague Castle, Vyšehrad-Upper Castle, National Theater and other sights of Prague, the accordion music on board to entertain you.

Wednesday, June 3

Leave for Moravia, the eastern part of the country. Arrival in **Rožnov pod Radhoštěm**. Experience one of the most popular tourist destination 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. Depart to Lichnov, the Texas museum consisting of records on the emigrants to Texas from this region. Check-in. Finish the day with enjoyable evening party at **Koliba Vlčina** - Moravian wine, music and grilled chicken - “Everyone’s favorite place “quiant”! You will always remember Vlčina. Do not miss the party!!

Thursday, June 4

Leave for Zlin. Stop en route in another museum opened recently and devoted to those who left the country for a better life in USA, particularly Texas. Another destination on the route is **Kozlovice**, where you can see the **original school** from the years before, the water mill etc. Arrival in **Zlin**, the birthplace of the world-known shoe-maker Tomas Bata, town of greenery, industrial and business center of Central Moravia with the population of about 100 000. Check-in.

Friday, June 5

Leave for **Vizovice**, the so-called “Gate to Wallachia” 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! 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**. Arrive in **Slusovice**, 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. Come back to the hotel. Get ready for the party with the **local band VESELANKA** playing Czech and Moravian songs to entertain you. Dance – drinks – good food and fun!!

Saturday, June 6

Leave for **Salzburg, Austria**. Stop en route in **Vienna**, the capital of Austria. 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 Theater, Parliament, museums, universities, fancy hotels and shops). If time allows we will get off at Hofburg – imperial palace which accommodated the Hapsburgs 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. Arrive in **Salzburg**, the birthplace of **W.A.Mozart**, charming city where the popular musical Sound of Music was filmed. Check-in. Leisure time.

Sunday, June 7

Leave Salzburg for **Venice, Italy**. There will be one more place to see before we leave Austria. That is the **Eagle's Nest**, in **Germany**, the weekend residence which was given to Adolf Hitler for his 50th birthday, on behalf of the NSDAP party. 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, go by bus specially adjusted to the narrow road. Unforgettable view of the surrounding area and the mountains, chance to view the tea room with the huge fireplace and of course a lots of gifts and souvenirs from the area. Leave for Italy, enjoy the beautiful countryside on the way, the **ALPS** and its mountains, waterfalls etc. Arrival in **San Dona di Piave**, which is situated only a few miles from Venice. Check-in.

Monday, June 8

In the morning depart **by boat** to the center of **Venice**. This is built on 177 islands linked by an intricate network of some 150 canals. Visitors can only explore Venice on foot or by water bus. Through the Grand canal you get to see St Mark's Square with St Mark's Basilica, bell tower and attractive shops with displays of lace, jewelery, masks, mirrors and Murano crystal. Gondolas which are virtually the symbol of Venice are wherever you go waiting to take you on a romantic ride. After sightseeing free time for shopping and continue on our way to Rome. Check-in the hotel on the route in Orvieto.

Tuesday, June 9

Leave for **Rome**, sightseeing tour of the ancient Rome starting with the **Coliseum** which used to hold 50,000 spectators who came to watch duels, gladiators wrestling against lions, chariot races and even naval battles. See the Roman Forum, once the religious, political and trade center of ancient Rome. It reflects the twelve centuries of history. Venezia Square with the equestrian statue of the first king of Italy, Vittorio Emanuel monument, next will be the very famous Fountain di Trevi, the largest Baroque fountain. Lunch. In the afternoon visit the Panteon, the oldest church in Rome and another church will be the Basilica of St. Paul without the Walls. Check-in. Leisure time.

Wednesday, June 10

Breakfast. Tour of the **Vatican**, the smallest state in the world and the **seat of the Pope**. Visit **St. Peter's Square**, the beautiful master piece with 140 statues of the Saints around and St. Peter's Cathedral, the largest one worldwide – it holds 60,000 people. Visit the Vatican Museums consisting of many rooms holding all types of art collections including the most precious one, the Sistine Chapel. You may even rise up the terrace of the cathedral for a beautiful view of Rome. Lunch. In the afternoon free time for shopping (especially religious articles) – or time at your leisure. Return to hotel and get ready for the return back home the next day.

Thursday, June 11

Leave for the **airport** in Rome in the morning. Catch the flight back to Houston airport.
HOME SWEET HOME!!

ACCOMMODATIONS

Mon, Tue	June 1, 2	Prague	Czech Republic
Wednesday	June 3	Roznov p. Radhostem	Czech Republic
Thu, Fri	June 4, 5	Zlin	Czech Republic
Saturday	June 6	Salzburg	Austria
Sunday	June 7	San Dona di Piave	Italy
Monday	June 8	Orvieto	Italy
Tue, Wed	June 9, 10	Rome	Italy

Tour Price: **\$3,299** per person **based on double occupancy** (includes flight, accommodation, bus, tour guide service, entrance fees, breakfasts, dinners, drinks with group meals, buffet on the bus-drinks, candy and wafers, music)

Single supplement: **\$250** (if rooming single)

Insurance: (optional) **\$40** (covers medical and hospital treatment with transportation home up to maximum cost of \$100,000 USD)

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/> (At this time, the processing time for passport applications is within four to six weeks of receipt.)

There will be 2 deposits:

First deposit due now: **\$1,600**
 Second one by **March 1, 2009:** **\$1,699**

AF 033 31MAY Houston	4:05PM	Paris	8:45AM + 1day
AF 1982 01JUN Paris	1:10PM	Prague	2:45PM
AF 1205 11JUN Rome	10:20AM	Paris	12:30PM
AF 038 11JUN Paris	3:55PM	Houston	7:30PM

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Price and services may change slightly due to fluctuating currencies.

Photos from our Past European Tour July 2008.

