

*Frank Fristensky's
EuroAm Travel Club
970-749-3012*

*URL: www.euroamtravelclub.com
Email: fristenskytravel@gmail.com*

Check the Czechs Tour 2009

Experience the Difference!

Departure: Friday, June 13, 2009
Returning: Sunday, June 29, 2009

The Czech Republic is a country of fairytale castles, forests and fishponds, music and art, medieval towns and Renaissance chateaux. There is a rich heritage to explore – unravel Czech history and you will get a deeper understanding of Europe as a whole – with the added bonus of the world's finest beer to lubricate debate. And at the center of it is Prague (Praha), one of the most beautiful and cultured cities in the world.

Your Small Group Tour Highlights:

Spectacular Prague....Two days in Karlovy Vary, a picturesque hot springs town.... Plzen and the Pilsner Urquell brewery....Camp fire and entertainment in the Czech Black Forest....Spectacular town of Cesky Krumlov....The iron curtain military post at the Czech/Austrian border....Telc, a fairytale style SouthBohemian village....The wine cellars of Mikulov....The monumental chateau of Lednice....Roznov, Frank's former home town and visiting with his family....Medieval dress up party at the private castle of Vilemov....Czech native speaking guide Frank....Pleasing mix of touring, history, culture, music, nature and time at leisure.

The Czechs have always been at the crossroads of Europe between the Slavic and Germanic worlds, between Catholicism and Protestantism, and between the Cold War East and West. Despite these strong external influences, they have retained their distinct Czech culture.... and a dark, ironic sense of humor to keep them laughing through it all.... and the following tour is designed in a way that you will experience the Czech Republic.

DAY 1: **AM/PM** After arriving in **Prague** (Praha in Czech) (1,100,000 pop.), we check into our hotel. Depending on our arrival, there might be time on your own. It is amazing what 17 years of freedom can do. Praha, known for its endless red roofs and spires, has always been historic. Now it is fun too. No place in Europe has become so popular so quickly. And for good reasons: Praha, the only Eastern European capital to escape the bombs of the last century's wars, is one of Europe's bestpreserved cities. It is filled with Art Nouveau facades, offers great musical entertainment, galleries, amazing museums and restaurants, and brews the best beer in Europe (perhaps in the World). We overnight in Praha.

(D)

DAY 2: AM

(Sunday)

June 14

This morning we tour Praha with a local guide. We explore the Hradcany. (Praha Castle) district, home of the distinctive castle towering above the Vltava River. The castle today is the seat of the president of the Czech Republic. We stroll along the Golden Lane, with its picturesque artisans' cottages. We cross the famous Charles Bridge into the Old Town Square with its Astronomical Clock Tower. We also walk along the Vltava River, passing by the National Theater and visit the Jewish Quarter. There are many other very interesting sites to see as we walk with our guide.

PM

The remainder of the day is free to continue exploring this enchanting city on your own. A welcome dinner/entertainment and orientation is scheduled for this evening. We spend a second night in Praha.

(B-D)

DAY 3: AM

(Monday)

June 15

We travel west to **Karlovy Vary** (52,000 pop.), a world famous hot springs town. Karlovy Vary is quite literally built on water. There are 15 hot springs housed in or near five colonnades along the Tepla River. The legend has it that Karlovy Vary's hot springs were stumbled upon by pure chance. They were discovered by a dog, which fell into the first of the town's springs while out on a hunting trip with Emperor Charles IV. The town soon became a magnet for European aristocrats. The opulent 19 th and early 20 th century grandiose architecture forms a twosided colonnade along the river Tepla that runs through the middle of town. A local guide gives us a tour.

PM

This afternoon there is free time to enjoy the town on your own. Stroll the promenade, shop the many interesting stores, and visit the GrandHotel Pupp where the majority of the movie "The Last Holiday" with Queen Latifa was filmed. Some of the hot springs spas are open for public use. We spend the night in Karlovy Vary.

(B-L)

DAY 4: AM/PM

(Tuesday)

June 16

After breakfast we visit a well known factory of string instruments. Then we travel to nearby (30 miles) **Frantiskovy Lazne**, a smaller spa town known for its springs since medieval times. It is a clean and beautiful city with many cafes, souvenir shops, and springs. Beethoven and Goethe rank among the spa's most celebrated patrons.

There is free time and lunch in Frantiskovy Lazne. Upon return to Karlovy Vary there is time for your optional use of some of the various spas' offerings (i.e. therapeutic massages, cosmetic procedures, natural water swimming). We stay another night in Karlovy Vary.

(B-L-D)

DAY 5: AM

(Wednesday) After breakfast we tour the world famous Moser lead free crystal glass making factory. A visit to the **Moser Glass Factory** is a pleasure to everyone who enjoys crystal, glass products, and the art of glass making. Engraver Ludwig Moser established the original glass factory and shop in 1857. Moser glass has been sought out ever since for its outstanding quality and artistry and is known worldwide as the “glass of kings”. All products are made by hand in an array of shapes and Moser signature colors.

At the conclusion of the glass factory tour, we travel to **Plzen** (163,000 pop.), the capital of the western Czech Republic that was liberated by General Patton’s 3 rd Army in 1945. In 1295 A.D., the city of Nova Plzen (New Plzen) was founded by Czech King Wenceslas II on the confluence of the Radbuza and Mze rivers, 6 miles northwest of the original Old Plzen. New Plzen grew rapidly and soon became not only an important commercial center, but also the third Royal Town in Bohemia following Praha and Kutna Hora. Plzen has preserved its prominent position among Czech towns to the present day, 700 years after its founding. Plzen is an important cultural, economic, transport, commercial and industrial center, known primarily for the products of **Plzen Brewery (Pilsner Urquell)** and Skoda Engine Works.

PM

After lunch, we travel to the small town of **Klatovy** (23,500 pop.), located in the Plzen Region. The King Premysl Otakar II founded Klatovy during 1260-1263. We explore Klatovy’s central old square with its important historic sites such as: the Black Tower, reaching a height of 81 meters (245 feet) and built between 1547-1557 of unplastered ashlar blocks; the Baroque Pharmacy, “U Bileho jednorozce” (At the White Unicorn), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in business from 1776 to 1966, complete with rococo furnishings and apothecary supplies; and the Catacombs, the mysterious underground rooms under the Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception where 30 mummies are preserved. We spend the night in Klatovy.

(B)

DAY 6: AM/PM

(Thursday) This morning we travel to **Sumava** (the Bohemian Black Forest) in the Southwest part of the country. This low mountain range extends from Southwest Bohemia to Austria and Bavaria in Germany. The forest is comprised of heavily forested mountains with an average elevation of 2400 to 4200 feet. As a border region, it has had a complicated history. In the 20 th century it was literally part of the Iron Curtain, and large areas were stripped of human occupation. These unique circumstances led to the preservation of nature and forest ecosystems relatively unspoiled by human activity.

We will hike about 2.5 miles along the Vydra River, visit the ruin of the castle Kasperk and travel deeper into the Sumava Forest along the Vltava River to the top of the **Libinske Sedlo** (Libin Mountain). Here we will have dinner followed by “entertainment” at the camp fire, and spend the night in a rustic cabin. There is also an overlook tower that affords spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

(B-L-D)

DAY 7: AM

(Friday)

June 19

We depart this morning for **Cesky Krumlov** (14,000 pop.), a small ancient city in the South Bohemian Region (UNESCO World Heritage Site). Construction of the town and the castle began in the late 13th century at a ford in the Vltava River. The core of the old town is within a horseshoe bend of the river. The famous Krumlov Castle contains a preserved **Baroque theater** (dated at 1776), complete with original stage machinery, scenery and props. We enjoy a guided tour of the picturesque town, the castle, and the Baroque theater.

PM

You are free to explore the city's many special small shops, galleries, and cafes on your own. We have dinner, a special evening concert, and spend the night in Cesky Krumlov.

(B-L-D)

DAY 8: AM

(Saturday)

June 20

There will be more time for you in Cesky Krumlov. For interested people a small boat (raft or canoe) trip around the town can be organized. Midmorning, we travel to **Trebon** in the fishing region of many lakes for lunch followed by a short tour of the walled town.

PM

After lunch, we continue to the town of **Slavonice**, which is situated in the Bohemian Moravian Uplands near the river Dyje. Slavonice borders three historical territories: Bohemia, Moravia and Austria. The town was developed as a fortified township with many underground tunnel systems. On the way to Slavonice we stop at the former secret military border (Czechoslovakia/Austria) post of **Peršlák**. We have an evening program in Slavonice a "**craft adventure**" in which each participant will paint his/her own ceramic pot that can be taken home. We spend the night in Slavonice.

(B-L)

DAY 9: AM

(Sunday)

June 21

We travel to **Telec** (6,000 pop.), a picturesque South Bohemian town, where we tour the stunning town square. The square is huge and is bordered on three sides by 16th century Renaissance houses that were built on the ruins of Gothic structures. We then continue to the small town of **Nova Rise** where we visit a cloister's unique library.

PM

After Nova Risa, we continue to **Moravsky Krumlov** and visit Krumlov Castle with its extraordinary exhibition of **Alfons Mucha** original oversized paintings. After the tour, we head for **Mikulov**, located near the Austrian border. Here we enjoy an evening dinner and "program" in a cave wine cellar. We overnight in Mikulov.

(B-L-D)

DAY 10: AM

(Monday)

June 22

After breakfast, we travel to **Lednice** to tour one of the most spectacular chateaux in the country. The chateau, built in 1856, is neoGothic with carved wood interiors. The extensive gardens that include lakes, a pavilion, and a Turkishstyle minaret will be visited by a horsedrawn carriage and by boat.

PM

Following lunch we travel to **Brno** (370,000 pop.), the second largest city of the country. Brno is located in the southeast part of the country, at the confluence of the Svitava and Svatka rivers. The city is a political and cultural hub of the South Moravian region. The city view is dominated by the Spilberk fortress/castle. The city is not only a center of industry and commerce, but also of education and culture. Here we have a short tour of the city.

We continue to **Zlin**, (50,000 pop.), the 3 rd largest city in the Moravian part of the country. Zlin lies along the river Drevenice in a mild climatic area of southeastern Moravia. It is also a crossroads for the ethnographic boundaries of the Walachian, Hana and MoravianSlovak Regions. The city is famous as the birthplace of the founder of the colossal Bata Shoe empire, Thomas Bata. We stay in Zlin.

(B-L-D)

DAY 11: AM

(Tuesday)

June 23

Today we travel to **Vizovice**, home of the Czech plum brandy Slivovice, and have a tour of the original **Jelinek Slivovice factory**. At midmorning we have a surprise stop in Vizovice.

PM

In the afternoon, we continue to **Roznov pod Radhostem** (Frank lived in this town for 15 years). The region of Roznov is situated at the foot of the Moravian Beskids Mountains. This is the most frequented region of the district with many significant cultural memorials and all season recreational activities. The most popular attraction in Roznov is the **Walachian OpenAir Museum**. The museum provides treasures of the architecture, trades, and life of the Walachian countryside in the 19 th century.

Lunch in the Walachian Village (with Frank's family) and a tour of the museum follows the meal. Dinner, a bowling competition, and overnight in Roznov end the day's activities.

(B-L-D)

DAY 12: AM

(Wednesday)

June 24

We leave for **Mt. Radhost** (near Roznov) and hike to the chapel of St. Cyril and St. Methodius. The Chapel dates to 1898 and is the place of frequent international pilgrimages.

PM

You have the afternoon to further explore the town of Roznov. Dinner is on your own and we stay another night in Roznov.

(B-L)

DAY 13: AM

(Thursday) We travel west to **Litovel**, to the home of Frank's granduncle **Gustav Fristensky**, a world-renowned GrecoRoman wrestler. Here we visit his estate and family. The little town of Litovel is situated in the Morava river basin in the beautiful protected area called the UpperMoravian dale. Litovel is proud of its 700 year long history. It is documented by numerous historical buildings and a copious collection in the local museum. We are given a tour of Litovel's brewery after which we have lunch.

June 25

PM

After lunch, we continue to **Olomouc** (101,000 pop.), Frank's birth place. The historical city center of Olomouc is the most renowned and bestpreserved city in all of Moravia. It reflects the most important moments in the governmental, spiritual, artistic, and civic developments of a thousand years of history. We have a guided tour of the town and spend the night.

(B-L)

DAY 14: AM

(Friday) In the morning we tour the breathtaking gorge of **Javoricko** followed by a stop at the castle **Bouzov**.

June 26

PM

We continue to the private castle of **Vilemov**. Here, we go back 500 years, back in time to the Middle Ages. We move into the castle's private suites and relax in the castle's surroundings. In the evening we dress in medieval attire and experience an era appropriate, festive dinner followed by live chamber music. We spend the night in the castle Vileov.

(B-L-D)

DAY 15: AM/PM

(Saturday) We leave this morning for **Praha**. After we reach the capital city, the remainder of the day is yours to relax, shop or to continue exploring the city on your own. We overnight in Praha.

June 27

(B)

DAY 16: AM

(Sunday) We transfer to the airport early this morning for our connecting flights to the U.S.

June 28

(B)

Goodbye – Nashledaou

“Experience, Travel – These are as Education in Themselves.”

Euripides

TOUR SPECIFICATIONS:

We will be traveling in a modern airconditioned passenger van and staying in nice country setting places with the usual comfort. The tour price includes all accommodations with all breakfasts, 13 lunches, 10 dinners, all land transportation, transfer from/to the airport, tickets for all planned events, guided tours and special events, and services of the EuroAm Travel Club's tour directors.

- All land arrangements as described above:
 - o Double room occupancy: \$3,975.00/person
 - o Single room occupancy: \$4,275.00/person
- Some slight adjustments to the above schedule may occur.
- There may be some optional activities offered for a surcharge.
- The tour size is limited to 14 travelers.
- A deposit of \$500.00 per traveler is due with sign up.
- We suggest arranging your own round trip air travel from your hometown to Prague. Please contact us prior to making your reservation. If you are not able to make your own travel plans we will assist you.
- In order to get the full benefit of this trip an adequate degree of physical conditioning is recommended due to a good amount of walking and hiking, and to metabolize the good Czech food!