

Ellison Travel & Tours Ltd.

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HART HOUSE CHORUS PERFORMING TOUR TO CZECH REPUBLIC, AUSTRIA, SLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY

AUGUST 11-24, 2003

Final Itinerary – August 8, 2003

Day 1 – Monday, August 11 – IN FLIGHT

D

- 3:25pm - meet as a group at **Pearson International Airport, Toronto (Terminal 3)** at the **Czech Republic Airlines Counter to check in** (*please note that groups are required to check in 3 hours prior to scheduled departure time*)
- 6:25pm - scheduled departure from Toronto via **Czech Republic Airlines (OK) Flight 109** – direct service to **Prague**
 - a stop will be made in *Montreal* to pick up additional passengers, no change of planes (estimated flight time – 1 hour and 10 minutes)
 - **dinner** to be served in flight upon departure from Montreal (estimated flight time – 7 hours and 25 minutes)

Day 2 – Tuesday, August 12 – to PRAGUE, Czech Republic

B

- **breakfast** to be served just prior to landing
- 9:45am - estimated time of arrival into **Prague's Ruzyně International Airport (North Terminal)** – collect your luggage and proceed to Customs for processing – *Prague is 6 hours ahead of Toronto, please set your watches accordingly*
- 10:30am - meet a **45 passenger motorcoach and a professional courier / guide (Mr Vaclav Storek)** in front of the terminal and depart for **Central Prague**
- 11:00am - you will begin a **3 hour guided coach / walking tour** at Prague Castle that will include views of the **Charles Bridge and the Vltava River, the Laterna Magika and the National Theatre**
- 2:00pm - at the conclusion of the tour, the group will have time to purchase lunch and spend some free time in the city centre before heading to your hotel
- 4:15pm - meet your coach at **Cechuv Bridge (Hradcany or Castle Side)** and transfer to **Hotel Vysocansky Pivovar**
- 5:00pm - estimated time of arrival at your hotel, where you will where you will **check in for 3 nights accommodation**
 - at this time, CZK 12.00 is to be collected from each participant and given to your courier to facilitate pre-purchase of one way subway tickets for tomorrow
 - take time to settle into your rooms and rest after a long couple of travel days before meeting to discuss dinner plans
 - evening at leisure to relax at the hotel or venture into Central Prague via local subway service – *the hotel is located 100 meters from the Vysocanska subway station, and 10 minutes by subway from the historical centre of Prague.*)

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Day 3 – Wednesday, August 13 – PRAGUE**B/D**

- 8:00am - **breakfast is included** at your hotel today
- 9:00am - meet your **Bond LTD Courier** in front of your hotel and transfer downtown via Prague Metro Service to **Central Prague** (*41 prepaid one way tickets have been purchased by your courier*)
- 9:50am - estimated time of arrival in **Ancient Josefov (Jewish ghetto)** where you will begin a **guided walking tour** - this tour will also include a visit to the **Old Jewish Cemetery**
- 11:15am - the tour will conclude in the **Old Town Square**, where you will have time to purchase lunch
- 12:30pm - arrive at **The Church of St. Nicholas** in time to set up and rehearse for this afternoon's concert (*changing facilities are provided at the church / formal attire suggested*)
- 2:00pm - **1 hour concert performance** by the **Hart House Chorus** at **The Church of St. Nicholas** (*a capella performance confirmed June 5, 2003*)
- 3:00pm - the remainder of the **afternoon free** to explore **Prague** at your leisure and mingle with the street musicians, artists and trinket sellers on beautiful Charles Bridge and to explore some of Prague's many squares
- 4:00pm - return to the hotel by subway in time to freshen up for tonight's event and meet your coach
- 6:15pm - meet a **45 passenger motorcoach from Bond LTD** in front of your hotel and **transfer** to tonight's activity
- 7:00pm - arrive at **U Marcanu Restaurant** for a **group dinner** and **folklore show**
- 10:00pm - at the conclusion of the evening meet your **motorcoach transfer** in front of the restaurant and return to your hotel for overnight accommodation

Day 4 – Thursday, August 14 – PRAGUE (no coach today)**B**

- 8:00am - **breakfast** is served at your hotel until 10:00am
- transfer into Central Prague using Prague Metro Service – Line B to Wenceslas Square / Mustek Stop (*CZK 12.00 each way*)
- today is a free day to further explore Prague independently – one of the most beautiful cities in the world !
- please make note of the following touring suggestions (*all admissions where applicable are the responsibility of the individual*)
- *guided tour of Prague Castle (Praský Hrad)* - the castle overlooks entire city located on the Malá Strana side of the river.
- *National Gallery at Sternberk Palace* - housed in a grand palace built in the 17th century near the castle, the works in the gallery include the likes of Rembrandt, Brueghel the Elder, Klee, and Munch
- *guided tour of Villa Bertremka* – W.A. Mozart's home between 1787 and 1791 while he completed his opera "Don Giovanni"
- lunch and dinner are to be purchased by tour members from suggested restaurants

Day 5 – Friday, August 15 – to CESKE BUDEJOVICE**B**

- 7:30am - **breakfast is included** at your hotel today, followed by check out
- 8:30am - meet **45 passenger air conditioned coach with English speaking driver** from **Interbus Praha** and load luggage
- 9:00am - board depart for **Ceske Budejovice**, (located 120km's south of Prague) the capital of South Bohemia and home of the original Budweiser beer

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Day 5 – Continued...

- 1:00pm - a stop will be made enroute at the lavish **Hluboka nad Vltavou Palace**, founded in the 13th century by the Czech king Wenceslaus 1, and perched on top of a sheer rocky outcrop on the northern edge of the lakelands around Ceske Budejovice - a **guided tour** is included
- 2:30pm - at the conclusion of the tour, board your coach and continue your journey to Ceske Budejovice
- 3:00pm - estimated time of arrival in central **Ceske Budejovice**, at the **Cathedral of St. Nicholas (Premysl Otakar II Square)** in time to set up for a **1 hour rehearsal** (tentative to group's requirements)
- 4:00pm - check into the **Hotel Gomel** for **2 nights accommodation** and quickly change into your performance attire (suggest formal dress)
- 6:00pm - **1 hour concert performance by the Hart House Chorus at the Cathedral of St. Nicholas** – a capella performance confirmed July 3, 2003
- 7:00pm - at the conclusion of your concert return to your hotel to change out of performance attire – the remainder of the evening is at leisure
 - suggested visits include the *South Bohemia Museum* and the *Black Tower* (the tower was blackened by a fire in 1641) , suggest an optional group tour of the *Budvar Brewery*, this beer tastes better than its U.S. counterpart Budweiser – the brewery is open only to groups)

Day 6 – Saturday, August 16 – CESKE BUDEJOVICE (day trip to CESKE KRUMLOV) B

- 9:00am - **breakfast is included** at your hotel today
- 10:00am - depart for the day to **Ceske Krumlov**, an incredibly well preserved medieval town southwest of Ceske Budejovice and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**
 - *upon arrival in Ceske Krumlov, please decide with your driver a designated meeting location and time for your return to Ceske Budejovice*
 - time to stroll through the maze of cobblestone streets with charming Renaissance facades built along a loop in the river – suggested sights include the enormous 13th century castle, the old town square, the Budejovicka Gate and the Egon Schiele Museum (located in his former studio, the museum has 80 paintings by this highly original artist)
 - participants are to purchase lunch while in Ceske Krumlov
 - meet your coach at prearranged meeting location and return to Ceske Budejovice
- 6:00pm - evening return to Ceske Budejovice – dinner on your own with remainder of evening at leisure

Day 7 – Sunday, August 17 – to BRUCK AN DER LEITHA, Austria B

- 7:00am - **breakfast** at your hotel, followed by check out and loading of coach
 - 8:00am - board your coach and depart the Czech Republic for **Melk, Austria** (*estimated drive time 2 ½ hours*)
 - 10:30am - estimated time of arrival at **Melk Abbey**, where you will enjoy a **guided tour** at **10:55am** - dramatically perched on a rocky bluff overlooking the Danube, the Abbey offers the finest example of Baroque architecture in Austria
 - 12:00noon - at the conclusion of the tour you will be directed to your performance location inside the Abbey (to be advised)
 - 12:30pm - **15 minute informal a cappella performance** by the Hart House Chorus inside **Melk Abbey**
 - 12:45pm - at the conclusion of the performance depart for the town of **Melk**, where you will have time to purchase lunch and shop before returning to the Abbey for your afternoon concert performance
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Day 7 – Continued...

- 2:15pm - meet at the Abbey Garden Pavilion in time to prepare for your outdoor performance
- 2:30pm - **30 minute a capella performance by the Hart House Choir in the Abbey Garden Pavilion**
- 3:00pm - at the conclusion of the performance board your coach and depart for **Bruck an der Leitha**
- 4:30pm - estimated time of arrival in Bruck an der Leitha at **The Tourist Information Office** (located in the Church Tower), where you will meet a **professional step on guide** for a **90 minute guided tour of this charming medieval city**
- 5:30pm - during your tour a stop will be made at **Gasthouse “Zum Grunen Kranz”** where you will **enjoy a welcome drink of your choice**
- 6:00pm - at the conclusion of your tour you will drop off your guide and depart for your hotel
- 6:30pm - estimated time of arrival at the **Hotel Rumpler for 2 nights accommodation**
- dinner on your own this evening - the closest restaurant to your hotel is "**Zur Ölmühle**" (approximately a 5 minute walk)

Day 8 – Monday, August 18 – BRUCK AN DER LEITHA (day trip to VIENNA)**B**

- 8:00am - **breakfast is included** at your hotel today
- 9:00am - board your coach and depart Bruck an der Leitha for **Vienna** (*estimated drive time 25 – 45 minutes depending on traffic*)
- 9:45am - estimated time of arrival in Central Vienna at the **Schwedenplatz**, where you will **meet Ms Heide Danielis, professional step on guide** for a **3 hour motorcoach and walking tour of the Austrian Capital**
- 10:00am - **tour begins!** highlights of this tour include the grand buildings on the **Ringstrasse**, the magnificent **Hofburg Palace, St. Stephen’s Cathedral** with its soaring spire and **Prince Eugene’s Belvedere Palace**
- 1:00pm - at the conclusion of the tour you will have time to purchase lunch (*your guide will have some suggestions for you*)
- **afternoon free** to further explore **Vienna** on your own – suggested sights include 1 of Vienna’s many fine art galleries, shopping along the fashionable **Karntnerstrasse**, or **Prater Park**
- **evening free** to further explore Vienna – suggested visits include one of Vienna’s many musical venues from jazz to cabaret to the classics, a theatrical performance, or one of the many coffee houses or taverns
- 8:00pm - meet your motorcoach at a predetermined location and depart for **Bruck an der Leitha** (*estimated drive time is 25 – 45 minutes depending on traffic*)
- estimated time of arrival in Bruck and der Leitha - the remainder of the evening is at leisure

Day 9 – Tuesday, August 19 – to BRATISLAVA, Slovakia**B**

- 7:00am - breakfast is included at your hotel today, followed by check out
- 7:45am - depart Bruck and der Leitha for **Trnava, Slovakia**, sometimes referred to as Slovakia’s “Little Rome” because of its many steeples
- 9:45am - estimated time of arrival in Trnava, at the **Public Parking Lot on Rybnikova Street** where you will meet a **professional step on guide Mr Fabo for a 2 hour tour**, which will offer you a glimpse into the colourful past of this historic town
- 10:00am - **your tour begins!**

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Day 9 – Continued...

- 12:00noon - your tour will conclude at the **Church of St. Jacob**, where you will be met by Father Ladislav and directed to your performance location, in time to set up and warm up
- 1:00pm - **1 hour performance** the historic baroque styled **Church of St. Jacob** featuring the Hart House Chorus
- 2:00pm - at the conclusion of your performance, you will have time to purchase lunch from a nearby restaurant before departing for Bratislava
- 3:30pm - board your coach and depart for **Bratislava**, the capital city of Slovakia
- 4:30pm - estimated time of arrival into **Bratislava** where you will check in at the **Hotel Sorea Bratislava for 2 nights accommodation**
- 7:00pm - meet to discuss dinner plans – remainder of evening is at leisure

Day 10 - Wednesday, August 20 – BRATISLAVA**B**

- 8:00am - **breakfast is included** at your hotel today
- 9:00am - **a professional step on guide, Ms Dagmar Checova** will meet the group at the hotel for a **3 hour motorcoach & walking tour** of Slovakia's capital city including the historic **Old Quarter** with its charming row houses and the **Old City Hall**, the most beautiful building in town
- Slovakia's capital is a charming little city (pop. 441,000) that sits at the point where the Carpathian Mountains meet the Danube River, and like Vienna the city has two personalities: The first is Old World, Hapsburg Baroque, reflected in the charming row houses and the historic Old Quarter. The other is characterized by the drab concrete neighborhoods typical of former Eastern Bloc countries
- 12:00noon - at the conclusion of the tour you will have time to purchase lunch from a suggested restaurant or café in central Bratislava (your guide will have a few suggestions)
- this afternoon is free to further explore Bratislava on your own – suggested sights include *Obchodna Street* for the best shopping in the city (particularly good for handicrafts), *Michalska Street and its continuation Venturska*, where you will pass a number of historic sites including a venue at which Mozart performed at age 6, *St. Martin's Cathedral* and *Bratislava Castle*
- purchase dinner from a suggested restaurant in the area
- 5:00pm - estimated time of arrival at the **Blumenthal Church** where you will have time to set up and change into performance attire
- 6:00pm - **1 hour evening performance featuring the Hart House Chorus**

Day 11 – Thursday, August 21 – to KECSKEMET, Hungary**B**

- 8:00am - **breakfast** at your hotel, followed by check out
- 9:00am - depart for **Kecskemet, Hungary** – sightseeing stops will be made enroute
- 10:00am - travelling along the Danube River, a **2 hour stop** will be made in the baroque town of **Gyor**, a 2000 year old city with a 12th century cathedral and remains of a castle (with cannons intact) – don't forget to purchase lunch before departing
- 12:00noon - board your coach and depart for **Pannonhalma**,
- 12:30pm - estimated time of arrival in Pannonhalma at the **Monastery of Pannonhalma** where you will enjoy a **1 hour guided tour** of this 1000 year old abbey
- 1:30pm - at the conclusion of the tour you will proceed to your performance location (to be advised for an **informal 15 minute a capella performance** of sacred music
- 2:00pm - board your coach and depart for **Kecskemet Hungary** (*estimated driving time is 3 hours*)

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Day 11 – Continued...

- 5:00pm - estimated time of arrival into Kecskemet where you will **check into Hotel Szauna for 3 nights accommodation**
- Kecskemét lies in the middle of Hungary, in the region of the sandy hills between the Danube and Tisza Rivers, at the crossroads of ancient trading routes
 - Kecskemét is the "capital" of Hungarian “Art Nouveau” architecture - the most splendid masterpieces of this style decorate the town centre
 - meet to discuss dinner plans – remainder of the evening is at leisure

Day 12 – Friday, August 22- KECSKEMET (day tour to SZENTENDRE)**B**

- 7:45am - **breakfast** is included at your hotel
- 8:45am - **meet a professional your step-on-guide Mrs Agnes Pocsai** in front of the hotel and depart for a **full guided day tour to Szentendre**, a fascinating town 20 km. north of **Budapest** on the beautiful **Danube Bend** where the river meets the western tail of the **Carpathian Range**
- 11:30am - upon arrival enjoy some of the town’s many museums including the *Margit Kovacs Museum* (exhibits of her ceramic work), the *Skanzen* (an open-air museum), the *Ferenczy Museum* (examples of Hungarian impressionism) and the baroque *Orthodox church* (*admissions where required are not included*)
- you may also wish to visit the *Open Air Ethnographical Museum* (Szabadteri Neprajzi Muzeum), a collection of typical Hungarian buildings
 - purchase lunch from a suggested restaurant (your guide will have a few suggestions)
- 2:30pm - meet your coach at a predetermined location (to be advised by your driver) and return to Kecskemet
- 5:00pm - upon arrival in Kecskemet you will have time to freshen up and change into performance attire before tonight’s concert
- 6:00pm - arrive at “**The Main Catholic Church**” in time to set up and rehearse for your performance
- 7:00pm - 1 hour concert performance featuring the **Hart House Chorus**
- 8:00pm - at the conclusion of the performance the remainder of the evening is free to purchase dinner

Day 13 – Saturday, August 23 – KECSKEMET (day tour to BUDAPEST revised)**B/D**

- 8:00am - **breakfast** is included at your hotel
- 9:00am - board your coach at the hotel and depart for **Budapest** (*estimated drive time is 1 hour*)
- 10:00am - upon arrival in Budapest, **meet a professional step on guide for a 3 hour tour** of the historical twin cities of **Buda and Pest**, which will include the Great Synagogue, the Fishermen’s Bastion with its views over the Parliament and the Danube
- 1:00pm - at the conclusion of the tour you will bid your guide farewell with the rest of the afternoon to purchase lunch and sightsee
- the remainder of this afternoon is free to further explore Budapest - Budapest is a remarkable and yet wholly unpretentious place. Explore it fully. Turn off any of the main boulevards and you'll quickly find yourself in a quiet residential neighborhood - Budapest's extraordinary ambience can be felt everywhere
- 6:30pm - meet at your **cruise boarding location** (*Paulaer No. 7, Jaszai Mari Square, Margarethen Bridge on the “Pest” side*) in time to board the **Varhegy** for a **90 minute dinner cruise on the Danube River aboard the Varhegy**
- 7:00pm - **the cruise departs!** enjoy the evening
- 8:30pm - Varhegy returns to dock, disembark and board your coach continued...

Day 13 – continued...

- 9:30pm - estimated time of arrival in Kecskemet at your hotel
- please note that the group will be departing for the airport very early tomorrow morning – to ensure a prompt departure suggest settling your accounts for additional hotel services and that all of your luggage is packed up and ready to go

Day 14 – Sunday, August 24 – HOME

B / L / S

- 6:00am - **breakfast** is included at your hotel, followed by check out
- 6:30am - transfer via **motorcoach transfer from Kecskemet** to the **Budapest International Airport (Ferihegy)**
- 7:30am - arrive at Ferihegy International Airport (**Terminal 2B**) and check in
- 10:30am - scheduled departure from Budapest on **Czech Airlines (OK) Flight 787** for **Prague – snack service** offered in flight (*estimated flight time – 1 hour and 20 minutes*)
- 11:50am - estimated time of arrival at **Prague’s Ruzyne International Airport (North Terminal)** where you will await your connecting flight to **Toronto**
- 1:00pm - scheduled departure from Prague on **Czech Airlines Flt102** for Toronto (direct service) **dinner** service, are offered on this flight (*estimated flight time – 9hours*)
- 4:00pm - estimated time of arrival into **Toronto’s Pearson International Airport (Terminal 3)** Welcome Home!

B - Breakfast / L - Lunch / D - Dinner - denote meals included in tour cost
Itinerary is tentative and subject to final confirmation