



Tour De Europe

Munich to Berlin

7th July to 24th July 2014



ITINERARY:

Day 1—7th July 2014—Munich

Today is our welcome day where everybody gets together for the first time. Our hotel is the superior 4 star Hotel Platzl, right in the middle of the old town and just around the corner from the Hofbrauhaus, one of Munich's famous beer halls. In close proximity is the Marienplatz and

the Bavarian State Theatre. Further afield is BMW World for those driving enthusiasts. There will be a Welcome dinner organised for our Tour on this night.



Day 2—8th July 2014—Munich to Prague, 445 kms

Our first day on the road takes us out of Munich towards the Danube crossing at the baroque town of Passau. Passau was rebuilt by Italian architect's after the 17th century fires and contains the worlds largest cathedral organ at the cathedral of St. Stephen. We cross the river and then the border into the Czech Republic heading towards Cesky Krumlov. Cesky Krumlov is a UN Heritage listed town and one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Czech Republic. Two more heritage towns in Cesky Budejovice and Tabor bring us into Prague. Our hotel is the 4 star Ramada Prague Centre, fortuitously located right on Wenceslas Square in the middle of town.



Day 3—9th July 2014—Prague layday

Today is a day to get out into the old town of Prague. There are so many things to see in Prague, its hard to know where to start. There are the three main attractions of Prague: Prague Castle, King Charles Bridge and the old town. Bohemian Crystal, a special export of the Czech Republic is available everywhere. Our hotel is located on Wenceslas Square, in very close proximity to the old town, with easy access to other areas of Prague. Near the Castle is also Petrin View Tower, a smaller version of the Eiffel Tower. Try out one of Prague's famous beer gardens with great Czech pilsner.

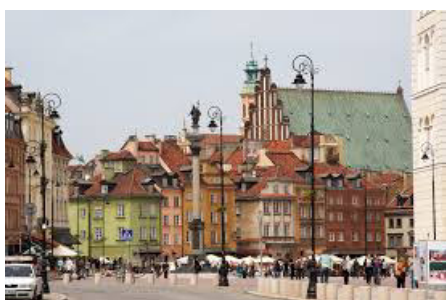
Day 3—10th July 2014—Prague to Krakow, 522 kms

We leave Prague and head towards the town of Brno in South Moravia and the centre of a wine growing district. We carry on via Ostrava onto the Polish border. After exchanging our Korunas for Zloty's we head to Oswiecim where we visit the Auschwitz Museum at the site of the WWII Nazi Concentration Camp. After the museum its only a quick 40 kms into Krakow and our 5 star accommodation at the SAS Radisson Blu.



Day 5—11th July—Krakow Layday

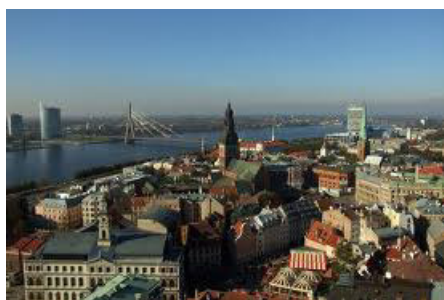
Our hotel is located next to the old town in Krakow. The old town is one of the best in Europe and was luckily saved during WWII due to an unexpectedly quick retreat by the Germans and the slow advance by Gen. Konev's Russians. As well as one of the largest town squares in Eastern Europe, there is Wawell castle, Oscar Schindlers factory (Schindlers List) and the Wieliczka Salt Mine (where you'll find a consecrated cathedral 110m below ground, carved into the rock salt). Krakow was the capital of Poland between the 11th & 16th Century and also houses lots of craft and art shops in its Jewish Ghetto near the hotel. Pope John Paul II was archbishop in Krakow before being elected Pope.



Day 6—12th July 2014 —Krakow to Warsaw, 293 kms

Today we spend most of the day in the Polish countryside. One of our attractions is The Black Madonna of Czestochowska. The icon has a hotly contested ancestry and is supposed to be painted on a table top from the house of the Holy Family (Joseph, Mary & Jesus). The rest of the day is a quiet cruise through the countryside to the 5 star Bristol Hotel on the edge of the Warsaw Old Town.

Day 7—13th July 2014—Warsaw to Vilnius, 490 kms — Today we keep heading north towards the ferry terminal at Tallinn. Our overnight stop is in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. On the way we'll see plenty of Poland and a part of Lithuania including the castle in the lake at Trakai, the ancient capital of Lithuania. Our hotel tonight is the 4 star Novotel Vilnius, right on the edge of the old centre of Vilnius



Day 8—14th July 2014—Vilnius to Tallinn, 603 kms —We leave Vilnius and keep heading north towards Latvia and its capital Riga. It's a pleasant drive over very flat country. One stop is at the Hill of the Crosses in Siauliai in Lithuania. Our trip continues along the Baltic coast before arriving in Tallinn. Our hotel is the 4 star Nordic Hotel Forum, located on the edge of the old town.

Day 9—15th July 2014—Tallinn to Helsinki, 15 kms — We have a morning off to explore Tallinn. There's a lot to see in Tallinn including the old fortress, which had a commanding view of the Gulf of Finland and a strange defence tower called Kiek in de Kök. In mid afternoon we'll get on board the ferry to Helsinki (a 90 minute journey) and finish up at the 4 star Radisson Plaza, right next to the main railway station.



Day 10—16th July 2014—Helsinki to St. Petersburg — Our train leaves Helsinki mid morning for the 3½ hour trip to St. Petersburg. During the trip, immigration formalities are completed for Finnish and Russian Immigration. On arrival at Finlandskaya station we will board a coach for a 2 hour guided tour of the main sights of St. Petersburg before being dropped off at our hotel, the 5

Star Corinthia Hotel St. Petersburg. The hotel is located right on Nevsky Prospekt, the main street of St. Petersburg.

Day 11, 12, 13—17th to 19th July 2014—St. Petersburg layday—St. Petersburg is called ‘The Venice of the North’ and for good reason: it is criss-crossed with many canals and a number of rivers. There are many things to see in the former capital of Imperial Russia, from the Hermitage, the winter palace at Peterhof (with 169 fountains and more gold leaf than anywhere in the world), the Peter & Paul fortress, the cruiser Aurora (fired the first shot in the 1917 revolution), together with many cultural highlights such as the Mariinsky Ballet (formerly the Kirov Ballet).



Day 14—20th July 2014—St. Petersburg to Turku, 170 kms—We leave St. Petersburg on the mid-morning train to return to Helsinki. We pick up our cars and travel across to the west of Finland and the port of Turku. At Turku we board our overnight ferry to Stockholm, though at this time of year you will see very little darkness.

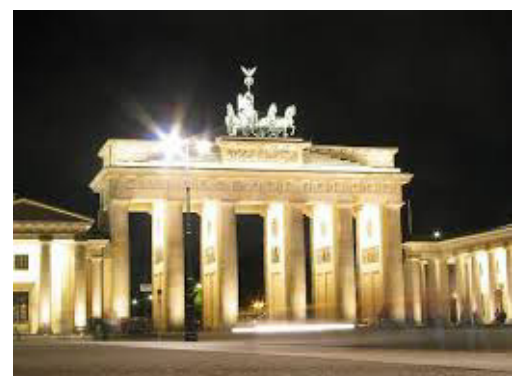
Day 15—21st July 2014—Stockholm to Copenhagen, 692 kms— An early morning arrival in Stockholm means we can get an early start on the trip to Copenhagen. The trip today takes us across Sweden and along Lake Vattern. On the way we can visit the town of Motala, which has a small but excellent motor museum, or we can pick up some food from a local deli and have a great picnic at one of the lake side stops. The final part of the journey takes us across the Skagerrak on the new huge bridge and straight into Copenhagen. Our hotel is the 4 star Hotel Imperial right by the Town Hall and next to the Tivoli Gardens in central Copenhagen.



Day 16—22nd July 2014—Copenhagen Layday— The home of Hans Christian Anderson has a lot to offer the tourist. It starts with a pedestrian free city centre, a free trip through the Carlsberg Brewery, celebrity spotting for Princess Mary, al fresco dining at Nyhavn (Anderson had 3 homes over the years in this area) and the Strøget shopping precinct.

Day 17—23rd July 2014—Copenhagen to Berlin, 416 kms—Our trip from Copenhagen first goes via the Viking Ship Museum at Roskilde where they have a genuine longship. Our second stop is at the Danish Tramway Museum in Jystrup where we can see the present given to Princess Mary by the Victorian Government. We then head to Gedser for the ferry to Rostock, an old Hanseatic port on the northern shore of Germany and a short run into Berlin. Our Hotel tonight is the 5 star Concorde Hotel in the centre of Berlin at Kurfurstendamm Boulevard.

Day 18—24th July 2014—Berlin layday—Our hotel is very centrally located. From here it is easy to get to the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie and Potsdamer Platz. We are also close to the Berlin Zoo and the Tiergarten. The end of the tour will be marked by a special dinner for all participants.



Safe Driving! - HARRY CADLE