Cruise The Blue Danube

7 nights cruising Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, plus 3 hotel nights in the Tyrolean Alps

May 9 – 20, 2011
$4,095.00 per person based on double occupancy from Peoria

To make a reservation, call:
Norma Joseph
(309) 677-4747

Prices reflect an early booking discount, cruise space is limited, book early.
Day by Day Itinerary

May 9 – Chicago en route
Depart Chicago this afternoon on your non-stop flight to Munich, Germany.

May 10 – Arrive Munich/Kitzbuhel
Arrive midday. Enjoy a city tour of Munich before continuing to Kitzbuhel, your home for the next 3 nights. Welcome dinner is included this evening.

May 11 – Kitzbuhel (Berchtesgaden and Lake Konigssee)
Travel over the lovely Stein Pass to Berchtesgaden and take the special postal bus and elevator to Kehlsteinhaus—or "Eagle's Nest" as coined by the Allied Forces—to enjoy a magnificent view of the surrounding Alps. Continue your journey to Obersalzburg where a stop will be made at the ruins of Hitler's home. Drive to nearby Konigsee for a cruise on the lake, considered by many to be the most beautiful lake in all of Europe. Return to Kitzbuhel in the early evening. (B & D)

May 12 – Kitzbuhel (Oberammergau/Linderhof Castle)
Drive to Mittenwald, known worldwide as a center of the violin industry in the style of the Old Italian school of Amati. Continue by way of Garmisch-Partenkirchen to the Passion Play town of Oberammergau, where you can have the chance to purchase beautiful woodcarvings made by local craftsmen. After shopping, continue to nearby Linderhof Palace for a guided visit. This Palace, set in the midst of the Ammergau Mountains, is perhaps the most interesting of the castles built towards the end of the nineteenth century by "mad" King Ludwig II of Bavaria. Return to Kitzbuhel. Enjoy dinner and a Tyrolean Show at a local restaurant. (B & D)

May 13 – Salzburg/Passau/Embarkation
Today's journey will take you first to Salzburg, the famous setting of "The Sound of Music." Enjoy a guided sightseeing tour featuring highlights of the city including: The Festival Hall, St. Peter’s Abbey (founded 690), the fine Baroque Cathedral, memorable locations from the film version of "The Sound of Music," Mozart’s birthplace, and Mozart’s House. Continue to Passau to board MS Amadeus Royal, your floating hotel for the next 7 nights. At 4pm, set off cruising east on the Danube towards the Austrian-German border through the attractive region of Engilhardtswell. Enjoy the welcome cocktail reception before dinner on board. (B & D)

May 14 – Cruising Vienna
Arrive in Vienna by noon. Enjoy lunch onboard before your included city tour of Vienna. This tour gives you a comprehensive impression of a majority of the most interesting sights of this important Danube city steeped in tradition. The drive along the Ringstrasse takes you past the magnificent buildings of the Austrian national opera and parliament, the Burgtheater, the town hall, university and Catholic Church buildings – right into the heart of the city – and to Stephansdom, Vienna’s splendid
May 15 – Cruising Bratislava
Arrive in the charming town of Bratislava by 8am. This capital of Slovakia, known as Pressburg until 1945, was formerly the city where the kings of Hungary were crowned. Your included tour by coach takes you past the city walls, the Grassalkowich Palace and the Episcopal palace right up to the castle itself. A walk through the historic old center leads you past St. Martin’s Cathedral and the Michael Gate. Medieval lanes bring you eventually to the city’s central square with its ancient Rathaus (town hall) and the Maximilian Fountain. From there it’s a short stroll back to the ship, passing the Slovakian National Theater. Return to the ship in time for lunch. Begin sailing at 6:30pm. (B, L, D)

May 16 – Cruising Budapest
Arrive at the lovely city of Budapest, Hungary, by 8am. Enjoy your included sightseeing tour of Budapest, “The Queen of the Danube,” which ranks among Europe’s most beautiful cities. The Danube flows through its heart, dividing the city into Buda and Pest. The drive starts with the “Pest” side, passing by magnificent Baroque buildings, the town hall and the national parliament, the Heldenplatz (Heroes Square) with its memorials to many Hungarian kings, and the famous chain bridge. Continue to the “Buda” side and up to the castle quarter, where you visit the church of St. Matthew and the Fisherman’s Bastion. Return to the ship for lunch. In the afternoon, you may want to join an optional excursion to Castle Gödöllő (about 18 miles from Budapest), which was built in the 18th Century. In the era of the imperial monarchy, it became a symbol of Empress Elisabeth, who was nicknamed “Sissi” and much loved by the Hungarians. Nested in an enormous park, this is the largest complex of Baroque buildings in Hungary and attractive to everyone – not just lovers of Baroque. You can go around rooms that have been carefully restored in recent years, and also see the former stables. There will be time for some welcome refreshment before driving back to the ship. Delight in cruising Budapest by night followed by a Folklore Show onboard. (B, L, D)

May 17 – Cruising Budapest to Esztergom
Depart Budapest by motor coach and drive along the banks of the Danube on your included excursion to the artists’ village of Szentendre. Continue to Esztergom, Hungary, the old residence of the Hungarian kings and seat of the Archbishop. After visiting the impressive cathedral (Hungary’s largest place of worship) you re-board your ship in Esztergom. (B, L, D)

May 18 – Cruising Vienna
Enjoy more of Vienna today as you arrive in the early afternoon. Take a motor coach to one of Vienna’s most beautiful buildings, Schoenbrunn Castle, during an included excursion. The Schoenbrunn complex was modeled on the palace of Versailles, the residence of Louis XIV (Le Roi Soleil). Here you can view the state apartments of the Habsburgs’ summer residence, and then take a stroll through the beautiful gardens in the grounds of the palace. After dinner, you have an option to enjoy the Sound of Vienna at night. The Alt Wien ensemble, one of Vienna’s best-known salon orchestras, will give a sparkling performance of some of the finest pieces by Johann Strauss (best known for his waltzes), his contemporaries, and Mozart favorites. Virtuoso musicians, outstanding opera singers, and enchanting ballet dancers will present an evening full of Viennese charm, including energetic waltzes, polkas and arias – all to the highest musical standards. Begin sailing at 11 pm. (B, L & D)

May 19 – Cruising Emmerstorf (Melk-Durnstein)
Arrive Emmerstorf, Austria, at 9am. Enjoy an included coach excursion to Duernstein, Austria—the best-known wine village in the Wachau. A walk through it allows you to appreciate its glorious position. Continue through the picturesque landscape of this district to the 900-year old Benedictine Abbey of Melk. Enjoy a guided tour of the abbey—including an organ recital providing an organist is available. The visit ends with a glass of wine at the Donauhof Inn. Set sail at 2pm. Take in the beauty of the Danube this afternoon as you cruise through the gorgeous landscape. (B, L & D)

May 20 – Disembark Passau/Munich/Chicago
Bid farewell to your cruise staff as you are transferred to the airport for your flight to Chicago. Arrive the same afternoon with beautiful memories of “Cruise the Blue Danube.”

“Welcome Home”
TOUR CONDITIONS

TOUR DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT: Deposit is due with reservations, final payment due 120 days before departure.

ARRANGEMENTS: The tour price is based on the current rate of exchange, tariff rates and air fares in effect 7/15/10. In the event of a marked increase in foreign currency, in air tariff, in hotel, or transportation rates, notification will be mailed to tour members in writing no later than 30 days prior to departure.

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE: You have the opportunity to purchase an insurance policy to cover you should you have to cancel for a medical reason. In the event you elect not to purchase the trip cancellation insurance, penalties will be implemented according to the terms below. Insurance information will be sent with your final invoice.

CANCELLATION: $150.00 per person levied if written notification is received 120 days or more prior to departure date. Between 120-91 days prior to departure, $600.00 per person penalty. Between 90-60 days prior to departure, 50% penalty, 59 days or later, 100% penalty.

AIRLINE MILEAGE PROGRAM: Eskin Tours’ programs are based on negotiated group air fares with various airlines. Some of the airlines may not offer mileage credit when traveling on a group fare.

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE TRAVEL: One piece of checked luggage is allowed on the tour. Its combined total measurement (length+width+height) cannot exceed 62 inches and 50 lbs. You are also allowed one carry-on per person which must be able to fit under the seat in front of you with a total measurement of 45 inches. All special requests that we receive for particular seating arrangement (must be noted on your reservation form as you sign up for the tour) are forwarded to the airline involved. However, we regret in this time of mass travel and computerized seating reservations; we cannot guarantee or be responsible in the event that your request is not honored by the airline involved. Should you wish to deviate from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates of travel, there will be a service charge of $100.00 per person, plus the additional cost of the change in air fare.

RESPONSIBILITY: Eskin Tours of 425 Huehl Rd., #16A, Northbrook, IL 60062, and/or any travel agency and/or suppliers of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the land or air portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in similar category. Further, the right is reserved to decline, to accept, or to retain, at any time, any person as a participant on any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from a portion of the tour, unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by a carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour. By utilizing the travel services of the suppliers, you agree that neither Eskin Tours nor any representative of Eskin Tours shall be liable, or that you will look to such suppliers, for any accident, injury, property damage, or personal loss to you or to those traveling with you in connection with any accommodations, transportation, or other travel services, or resulting directly or indirectly from any occurrences or conditions beyond Eskin Tours’ control, including, but not limited to, acts of terrorism, political unrest, war, defects in vehicles, breakdown of equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation of or changes in itineraries or schedules, or a disease outbreak.

* and WTVP

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RESERVATION FORM

Cabin Category ________________

Make checks payable to: WTVP 47, mail to WTVP 47, P.O. Box 1347, Peoria, IL 61654-1347

___ Enclosed is $400.00 per person deposit for __________ persons

Name: _____________________________ Tel: _____________________________

(As it appears on your passport.)

Name: _____________________________ Email: _____________________________

(As it appears on your passport.)

Address: _____________________________ City: _____________________________ State & Zip ________________

I will share a room with _____________________________

□ Single occupancy on request

Signature: _____________________________

ALL PASSENGERS MUST HAVE A VALID PASSPORT