



## CARPATHO-RUSYN SOCIETY

Dear Friend,

Attached is the itinerary and reservation form for the Carpatho-Rusyn Society's 11<sup>th</sup> Rusyn Heritage Tour, scheduled for July 14 – July 26, 2011, which you requested.

I want to remind everyone that the purpose of the tour is to experience Rusyn culture fully—its art, music, lifestyles, churches, and cultural achievements as well as have time to do a little research or find and visit relatives. It is meant to give you a full understanding of Rusyn culture and what it means to be Rusyn.

As I'm sure you are aware, costs on such tours have increased in recent years due to three factors:

1. The weak U.S. Dollar against growing economies in Eastern Europe
2. Increased fuel costs (gas for airplanes, busses, etc)
3. Increased taxes used to pay for things like airport security. This tax alone is about \$500 per person!

That having been said, this tour is still quite a bargain.

The process to secure your spot for the 2011 tour is as follows:

1. Review the itinerary and make your decision whether you wish to be a participant on this tour.
2. E-mail me your reservation to [rusynone@gmail.com](mailto:rusynone@gmail.com) or mail hard copy to John Righetti, 112 Crescent Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143. Give your name and **HOW MANY seats** you want on the tour.
3. The first reservations that fill our 35 seats will be the individuals/groups we will take on this year's tour.

If you have any questions concerning the tour or the itinerary prior to making your commitment, please feel free to call me at (412) 749-0675. Thanks for your interest in the Rusyn Heritage Tour. I look forward to leading you in this exciting Rusyn experience.

Sincerely,  
John J. Righetti  
National President

**JOIN US FOR THE  
11TH CARPATHO-RUSYN HERITAGE TOUR  
July 14 – July 26, 2011**

Visiting Slovakia, Poland, and Ukraine

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Seize the cultural experience of a lifetime! Enjoy the Carpatho-Rusyn people, their dances and songs, their foods, their stories, all set in the scenic and haunting beauty of the Carpathian Mountains. The Carpatho-Rusyn heritage tour will explore the living culture of the Rusyn people in this, their homeland--crossroads of Europe!

Sponsored by the Carpatho-Rusyn Society in association with the Rusin Association of Minnesota and in cooperation with Rahway Travel, Carpatho-Rusyn Society tour guide **John Righetti** teams up with Rusyn cultural leaders in Europe to bring about experiences and insights that help you fully understand the richness and fullness of Carpatho-Rusyn culture--fine arts, literature, economics, language, religion and history.

Explore, share and enjoy the living heritage of the Rusyn people this summer in an adventure you'll never forget!

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The Carpatho-Rusyn Society  
915 Dickson Street  
Munhall, PA 15120  
Call John Righetti  
412 749-0675  
[rusynone@gmail.com](mailto:rusynone@gmail.com)

The Rusin Association of Minnesota  
1817 121st Ave. NE  
Blaine, MN 55449  
Call Karen Varian  
612-754-7463  
[kvar121@aol.com](mailto:kvar121@aol.com)

Rahway Travel, Inc. Div. of W. Vislocky Travel  
35 East Milton Avenue  
Rahway, NJ 07065  
732-381-8800 or 800-toll free outside NJ: 526-2786  
FAX: 732-381-9890  
Member, American Society of Travel Agents

**YOUR TRIP INCLUDES**

Round trip economy airfare from JFK Airport in New York or Pgh/Washington DC Dulles Airport. First class and touring class hotels, all breakfasts and dinners. Baggage requires handling of only 1 checked piece per person, not to weigh more than 50 lbs., entrance fees, tips, taxes, services of an English-speaking guide.

**NOT INCLUDED**

Excess baggage charges, food and beverages not stated on the tour group menu, all lunches, room service, laundry service, telephone, items of a purely personal nature, airport departure taxes, inspection and security fees and fuel surcharges not already in force or increased subsequent to the printing of this itinerary.

## **HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS**

The Rusyn Heritage Tour is a vigorous tour with ample time for rest. However, it includes a fair amount of walking, sometimes in hilly areas and on poor roads. It is the mountainous and rural nature of the Carpathian area. Comfortable walking shoes are a necessity.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

William Vislocky Travel, Inc. d/b/a Rahway Travel and/or its associate companies or agents (the Carpatho-Rusyn Society and the Rusin Association of Minnesota) act only in the capacity of agent for the passengers in all matters connected with hotels, dining services, transportation, sightseeing, and other services. The company and associate organizations neither own nor operate any of the suppliers or services. **THE ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. NO REFUNDS FOR UNUSED SERVICES.**

## **PASSPORT--IMPORTANT!**

A valid American passport is required for the tour. If your passport expires before October 1, 2011, **PLEASE APPLY FOR A NEW PASSPORT IMMEDIATELY.**

## **TRAVEL ORIENTATION**

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society will hold a tour orientation meeting in Pittsburgh to review the tour and give travel tips and answer pre-tour questions. These sessions will be held on a Saturday or Sunday about 2 weeks prior to departure.

## CARPATHO-RUSYN HERITAGE TOUR APPLICATION FORM

Name on Passport \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Work#( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I wish a single room. \_\_\_ I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to visit the following Rusyn villages (indicate if it is in Slovakia, Poland or Ukraine) \_\_\_\_\_

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### FLIGHT AND TOUR COST FORM

Figure your cost based on your choice of single or double occupancy. All tour participants will meet in New York.

#### *From JFK, New York*

Double occupancy	\$3,555	Single occupancy	\$3,855
Taxes *	500		500
TOTAL	\$4055		\$4,355

#### *From Pgh/Washington DC*

Double occupancy	\$3,725	Single occupancy	\$4,025
Taxes*	500		500
TOTAL	\$4,225		\$4,525

\* ESTIMATE ONLY. FINAL TAXES WILL BE DETERMINED NEARER TO DEPARTURE.

I am flying from \_\_\_\_\_

My total cost is: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOU AND SEND THE ORIGINAL WITH \$300 DEPOSIT PER PERSON TO: Carpatho-Rusyn Heritage Tour, 112 Crescent Dr. Sewickley, PA 15143

1. A **\$300** Deposit per person must be paid at the time of booking.
2. Make all deposits and checks payable to **Rahway Travel**
3. Send your Heritage Tour Form and your deposit to: Carpatho-Rusyn Heritage Tour  
C/O John Righetti  
112 Crescent Drive  
Sewickley, PA 15143
4. You will be notified if you are confirmed for the trip.
5. The balance of your payment is due by **May 13, 2011.**

## **CANCELLATION**

If you cancel your reservation, these are the arrangements:

Land and AirFare	91 days before departure (Apr. 14) -- full refund
Arrangements:	90-61 days -- forfeit \$200
	60-31 days -- NO REFUND
	31 days or less -- NO REFUND

## **INSURANCE**

Once you are accepted for the trip, the travel agent will mail you a brochure describing travel insurance, its coverage and cost. We strongly suggest you consider purchasing some travel insurance.

## **THE 11TH CARPATHO-RUSYN HERITAGE TOUR ITINERARY**

**July 14 – July 26**

Visiting Rusyns in Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine

**THURSDAY, JULY 14** - NEW YORK (JFK) or WASHINGTON DC - VIENNA Via Austrian Air (international)

**FRIDAY, JULY 15** – VIENNA, AUSTRIA – KOSICE, SLOVAKIA—PRESOV, SLOVAKIA

WE ALL MEET IN VIENNA and fly to Kosice in eastern Slovakia, then board Heritage Tour private motorcoach for a leisurely ride to the Hotel Dukla in Presov Check in and, relax. Dinner in the hotel dining room featuring the local cuisine.

**SATURDAY, JULY 16** - PRESOV, SLOVAKIA TO KRYNICA, POLAND

After breakfast, Go directly into the high Beskyd chain of the Carpathians AND STOP IN AN ACTUAL Rusyn villae for local Rusyn food and entertainment. Then we head to Krynica in Poland, a health spa town with mineral waters and renowned topiary. It was home to the World Congress of Rusyns in 1993 and 2005. Arrive at the Nikifor Hotel and check in. Meet local Lemko Rusyn poet and cultural leader Petro Trochanovskij, who will highlight the day with a walking tour to the tomb of the famous Rusyn Lemko primitive artist Nykyfor Drovnjak, Then study the interesting contrasts between the newly built Orthodox Church and the older Byzantine Catholic Church – the largest Byzantine church in all of Lemkovyna. Enjoy some of this classic spa town and its shopping and ambience. Traditional Rusyn dinner at the hotel, then, practice singing for the Lemko Vatra – a traditional Rusyn outdoor bonfire – to be held the next evening with Lemko Rusyns.

**SUNDAY, JULY 17** KRYNICA

.After breakfast and church of your choice, visit Kamjanna, where the traditional Rusyn honey wine is made. See the beekeepers museum and sample the honey wine. Back to Krynica to visit Nikifor's Museum and new statue and take in the town. Walk the pedestrian zone, sidewalk cafes and general atmosphere. Return to the Nikifor Hotel and that evening, we'll attend the Lemko Vatra – a traditional mountain bonfire, complete with food, drinks, singing and the fellowship of local Lemko Rusyns.

**MONDAY, JULY 18** KRYNICA.

Those who wish go with drivers to the villages. The rest of us visit the traditional Rusyn wooden churches, including the oldest in the Lemko region. Back to Krynica for shopping and to take in the town, then dinner at the hotel and pack for tomorrow.

**TUESDAY, JULY 19** - KRYNICA TO GORLICI TO DUKLA TO ZYNDRANOVA - TO DUKLA PASS TO NYZNYJ KOMARNYK, AND PRESOV, SLOVAKIA

A PACKED DAY! After breakfast we depart for Gorlici to visit the new Holy Trinity Orthodox Church and view its spectacular iconography and learn about St. Maxim Sandovych, a Rusyn priest martyred for his faith and Rusyn nationality and canonized in this very church just 15

years ago. Then onto the Ruska Bursa, or Rusyn High School, one of only three founded at the turn of the century in Lemkovyna. Taken away by the Communist state, it has now been returned to the Rusyns of Poland and is serving as their cultural center. On to the ancient mountain city of Dukla, with its charming town square then to Zyndranova to visit and view the historical and folk treasures at the Rusyn Lemko Museum there – an outdoor museum set up to resemble a Lemko homestead 120 years ago.

We cross the Dukla Pass through the mountains into Slovakia, stopping there to visit the Dukla open air battlefield where some 90,000 men lost their lives in battle during World War II. Then to Nyznyj Komarnyk, an isolated Rusyn village with a unique Boyko wooden church. Then on to Presov, cultural capital for Rusyns . Check into the Hotel Dukla Dinner and local entertainment..

### **WEDNESDAY, JULY 20 PRESOV—BARDEJOV -- SVIDNYK –KRASNY BROD**

After breakfast, visit the new Rusyn Museum in Presov and the tombs under the Greek Catholic Cathedral. Then up in the mountains to visit the Rusyn Icon Museum in Bardejov, then the Svidnik outdoor Rusyn Museum – an entire village set up as the Rusyn lived 120 years ago!. On to Krasny Brod, site of an historic Rusyn monastery and a holy site to the Rusyns from pagan times. Stop in a little Rusyn village to experience a small town korcma (tavern) just like your ancestors did.

Dinner that evening in the Saris Restaurant in Presov with local Rusyn entertainment

### **THURSDAY, JULY 21 PRESOV**

For those visiting the villages and relatives in Slovakia, leave early with drivers from the hotel lobby. For the rest, take a walking guided tour of the city. Learn about Presov's colorful and challenging religious history. Finish shopping, relax and get to know Presov better.

In the evening , walk to the theater for a command performance by a Rusyn ensemble. Pack to leave for Ukraine in the morning.

### **FRIDAY, JULY 22 PRESOV TO UZHOROD, UKRAINE**

After breakfast, leave for Uzhorod. Arrive there, cross the border to the capital of the Rusyn territory since the 600s! Check into the Hotel Uzhorod. See the ancient sites of Uzhorod, including Uzhorod castle and see where the Union of Uzhorod took place in 1646. View the museum of Rusyn folk life and then on to the Outdoor Museum of Rusyn Folk Culture which features traditional Rusyn homes from every region of Transcarpathia. Back to the hotel for dinner and local Rusyn entertainment.

### **SATURDAY, JULY 23 UZHOROD TO MUKACHEVO AND IVANOVCI.**

Travel east by motorcoach to the city of Mukachevo, the second largest city of Transcarpathia and the religious and cultural center of Rusyns from earliest times. We stop and visit the sacred historical site for all Rusyns, St. Nicholas Monastery on Cerneca Hora (Monk's Hill) – now home to almost 100 Orthodox nuns. The monastery church was built in the late 1700s and holds a miraculous icon.

Lunch on your own in the sidewalk cafes in downtown Mukachevo. Then to Palanok, the renowned Mukachevo Castle. The view is incredible from there and the castle is filled with a museum of local Rusyn culture. Then we travel to Ivanovci and visit the Romzha Memorial, the site where recently beatified Greek Catholic Bishop Theodore Romzha was martyred by the

Communists in 1947, beginning the liquidation of the Greek Catholic Church in Transcarpathia. Dinner in hotel – then off to the Philharmonic Hall for a performance by the world renowned Transcarpathian Folk Ensemble.

**SUNDAY, JULY 24** UZHOROD

Church of your choice or early departure after breakfast for those going to the villages.. For the rest, a tour of historic Uzhorod-- see the architecture of the Hungarian times, the shops and the sites. Cross the pedestrian footbridge, walk through Korjatovych Square, sample the local foods Time for walking in Uzhorod. Dinner with local entertainment. Pack for tomorrow.

**MONDAY, JULY 25** UZHOROD TO KOSICE, SLOVAKIA

Breakfast then onto Slovakia's second largest city – Kosice. Take in the sites of this spectacular city including several museums and spectacular shopping! Farewell dinner and overnight in one of the city's hotels.

**TUESDAY, JULY 26** KOSICE TO VIENNA TO NEW YORK (JFK)/WASHINGTON DC

Depart from Kosice for Vienna then for New York/Washington DC and back to wherever you call home!