

Trip to Slovenia and Austria
Lepton-Photon 2015
8/15-9/13/2015

Saturday, August 15 – Out of Cincinnati

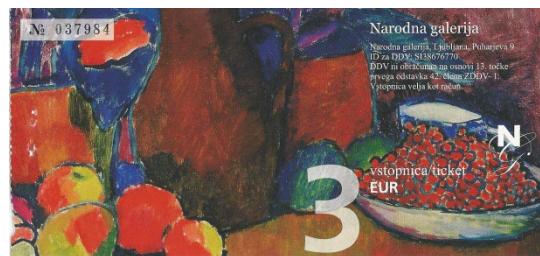
Becky picks us up at home about 12:30 and we head for the airport. The Cincinnati to Dulles flight leaves $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour late. We race through Dulles (Munich flight is in a different concourse, of course) and we make it with 5 minutes to spare. There is a computer glitch affecting the entire east coast. Our Munich flight takes off an hour late either because of the computer glitch or because we were waiting for other passengers. Fly overnight to Munich.

Sunday, August 16 – And into Slovenia

Munich is a wonderful airport. It has a meager passport control. No customs that we saw. Get new seats on our flight to Ljubljana so that we can sit together. See other people going to the conference. Short flight over and around the Alps. See Lake Bled on the way. Land, get luggage right away, and take shuttle to hotel. Check in, but the room is not ready. Have lunch in the hotel outdoor café (the one behind the hotel) and get into room. Big, nice, and our luggage is there. Sleep away the afternoon during a rainstorm. In the evening, walk toward old town through a church square, over the three bridges, and along the river. Have an appetizer (ham and cheese) and a drink at a table by the river. It was raining a bit, but we were under an umbrella. Back to the hotel and to bed.

Monday, August 17 – Lepton Photon 2015 Begins

Really good breakfast at the hotel and walk to the conference center. It is in the opposite direction from old town from the hotel. Meet Mike and Linda Shaevitz there. Jan goes off with Linda. I go to the conference. Coffee breaks aren't much but the lunch is very good. One speaker in the afternoon postpones and the reception is moved up $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Mike skypes Linda and tells her and Jan to come early. Caught them eating pumpkin ice cream. It was a good thing too because, while the reception was supposed to go for two hours, the food was gone after an hour. After the reception, we went back to the hotel and, still jet-lagged, we went to bed.



Tuesday, August 18

Randy has breakfast, goes to the conference in the morning, and has lunch there. Jan works out, has breakfast, and stays at the hotel. We and the Shaevitzes bum around for the afternoon. First we go to the art museum (there is not much there in the upper floor; the lower floor has an exhibit of Slovenia art returned from embassies around the world). Then go into Trivoli park for an ice cream. Then we head into old town and see city hall. Jan gets some laundry soap. We find the funicular that goes up to the castle and the dragon bridge. We walk along the river back into old town and eat at a restaurant that Rick Steves suggests (Julija's...always an extra "j" or two it seems) with Mike and Linda. It was quite good. Then back to the room.

Wednesday, August 19 – Excursion Day

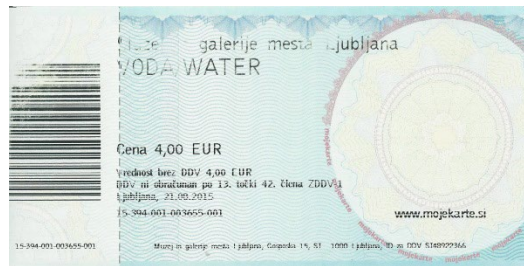
We are on the excursion that goes to Koper and Piran on the Aegean Sea. First stop Koper. Walk through the old town to the city square and see the church. Walk to end and overlook the port. Come back and climb the church's bell tower. Back to the bus and are almost the first ones there, but everyone else arrives on time. Go to Piran and walk through old town there too. The shops there do not seem as prosperous. Funny, because this is the bigger tourist attraction of the two. Walk up the hill to a the church which was a monastery. From its courtyard, you can see Italy in one direction and Croatia in the other. Have a fish lunch in a covered veranda by the ocean. Slowly walk back to the bus. While it was supposed to rain all day, it didn't more than rain lightly until after lunch. We were lucky it held off until then. Slowly walk back to bus exploring side streets in the old town. On the way back, we cross into Italy at Trieste and then back into Slovenia. Have a light dinner at the hotel.

Thursday, August 20

More conference for Randy. Jan goes up to the castle with Linda and takes tour. Hear a very good lecture by Alan Guth about cosmology in the evening. Have a late dinner by the river near the triple bridge.



Castle



Modern Art Museum – Water Exhibit



National Museum

Friday, August 21 – Banquet Day

Randy goes to the conference in the morning and cuts out after lunch. He goes up to the castle and through the different areas. Jan meets Linda for lunch and does the city museum and the contemporary art museum. We go back to the castle for the banquet. Banquet is supposed to be outside, but it rains in the afternoon and they bring the tables in. The organizers say it is too "cold" to eat outside even though people thoroughly enjoyed the pre-banquet drinks out there. Lots of champagne before dinner. Lots of wine with dinner and good food on the buffet.

Saturday, August 22 – End of Conference

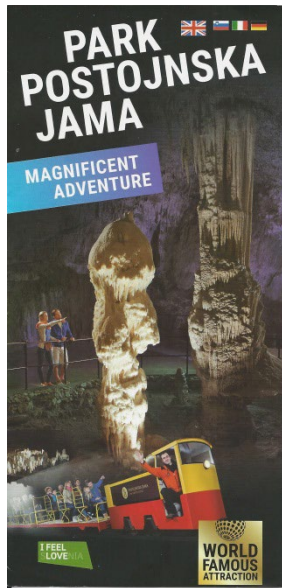
Randy attends morning sessions of last day, but cuts out before the summary talk. Back to hotel to pick up Jan and then off to the botanical gardens. On the way, we try to see into St. James's church which is supposed to have an interesting side altar; we can only see in from the back and cannot see it. Gardens are supposed to be free, but we have to pay to get into a very small green house. Hope to find lunch in the gardens but can only get a smoothie. Have fun taking pictures of butterflies. Walk back to town looking for Roman ruins (of Emona – the Roman name for the town). Find the corner house (the town was square and houses in the corners were the most prestigious). House had a black and white mosaic plus a clay block mosaic in the servant (slave) quarters. Notice that the clay mosaic pattern is the pattern that is in many of the streets. They moved a "public toilet" to the house for display. Public toilets were for poop only. Urine was collected in buckets and used for various purposes including brushing your teeth. We get a recommendation for a pizza place from the guide. We then walk along the old Roman wall and up to a piece of the Roman sewer system. Walk along the river looking for the pizza place. Don't find it. Have an early dinner along the river (other side this time). Go to the Franciscan Church of the Assumption (the big church right next to our hotel) to see it, but it is too dark.

Sunday, August 23 – Last Day in Ljubljana

Jan goes to church at Franciscan Church of the Assumption. Actually, we go in to see church at 10:00 and find there is an International Mass at 10:15. Randy walks around the old town, finds lemons at the market, and tries and fails to get into St. James again. Pick up Jan and eat in old town. Go over to Ursuline Church and find that it is really open from 17:00 to 18:30. Walking toward the Slovenian National Museum we find the Parliament Building and the "Dom", the cultural center. Look for the gardens behind the Dom but find the early Roman Christian center instead. Neat ruins built around a baptistery and a personal set of baths. Go to the National Museum. See a Neanderthal flute, early bronze and Iron Age implements, weapons and armor. Nice mosaic in the Roman section. Leave about 17:30 and see the Ursuline church while people are saying the rosary and before the services. Very rococo. Have a beer in the square in front of the church. Also find the pizza place we couldn't find yesterday. Stop by river for dessert and go back and pack.

Monday, August 24

Last breakfast at the Grand Hotel Union. Get an additional adapter for European outlets from the gift shop. Walk to City Hotel and pick up car. Drive to Postojna without a problem but miss exit on freeway. Take a back road to city, find hotel, and check in. Take a nap. Walk to center of town and get a dessert. Walk to the cave, Postojna Jama. Look around grounds and get tickets for tomorrow. Walk back to restaurant where we had ice cream and have a very good dinner outside. Watch television until bed. Also call Alex (actually Skype Alex, get a bad connection and he calls me back).



Tuesday, August 25 – Postojna Jama

Tickets for cave tour are at 10:30. Dally around hotel until 9:45 when we realize that we are supposed to be at caves at 10:00 (1/2 hour early). Rush to cave and see 10:00 tour leaving. Find out that our group lines up at about 10:20 (why the rush?). Get in the English line at that time. Cave is a spectacular collection of stalactites, stalagmites, pillars, curtains, etc. First and last parts of the tour were by train. In between – walking. Took lots of pictures and probably none will turn out. Had lunch in the café outside. Then went to the cave zoo. Had an employee come with us and find the animals for us in the exhibits. Don't know why she stayed with us, but we were pretty lucky. Went from there to the butterfly exhibit – mounted butterflies. Pretty interesting, but not what we expected (I guess we were expecting live butterflies). All were classified with Latin names; not too helpful for us. Upstairs was a display of local fossils artifacts and animal reconstructions. The cave bear was not nearly as big as I imagined. It was raining when we left the cave but we stayed pretty well under cover until it was time to leave. When we were heading for the car, it was raining hard. Pay for parking and get to car. Drive to Predjama Castle and, after circling, find a parking place. It is still raining. Take some pictures in the rain and go in. Recorded tour is very enjoyable. Come out and have a beer and a glass of wine overlooking the castle. Drive back to hotel, deposit stuff, and have dinner in the same restaurant as last night.



Wednesday, August 26 – Skocjan Caves

After breakfast, went directly to the caves (almost down to Koper). Easy drive except missed turn onto freeway. Had to go an extra block and around a traffic circle. At freeway exit, everything is very well marked. Got on the 11:00 tour. No pictures inside the cave. Things are not very brightly lit as Postojna was; so picture would not have come out very well anyway. Nice cave features for the first part, stalactites, etc. In the murmuring cavern, you could start to hear the river. The river cavern was the spectacular part of the cave. Walk down a switch back trail looking into a huge cavern with the river flowing down below. Get to a bridge that is 40 m above the river. The second half of the hike is along the edge of the river gorge (still quite some distance above it). The guide spoke in English and German and we didn't feel nearly as rushed as we did in Postojna. At the exit (a huge opening) walked over the river to the funicular and ride up the hill. Have a stew for lunch and start out on the second half on our own. Take flower pictures along the way to the entrance. Much shorter cave. There are two large sink holes. The second larger one separates the cave we walked through in the morning from the one of the afternoon. There were a series of waterfall at the end of the afternoon cave before the river ran into the morning cave. Take the funicular up again, have an ice cream and head for Postojna. On Jure's suggestion, have dinner at the Avio Pub (right at the end of the "airport" runway). Have the truffle and mushroom pizza – it was excellent.

Thursday, August 27 – Lipica, Lipizzaner Horses, and Stanjel

Drive to Lipica in the morning. Get on the 11:00 tour of the stud farm, basically going through the stables. But we do see the Lipizzaner (White) horses. They are born grey and lighten up as they age. Eat lunch at the farm. On the way out, see a large herd in two different pastures. Drive to Stanjel. What was supposed to be a "castle" was really a walled city with many ring walls. Walk around the city and find a man who wants to sell us his wood burnings. Find a small garden and rest there. Walk back past a winery but nothing is open and there are no tasting rooms. Get in the car and head to Zemono Palace, another of Jure's suggestions (Dvorec Zemono, actually "Mansion Zemono"). It was closed for the day...darn. Go back into Vipava and have a glass of Barbera (St. Martin Winery). It was wonderful. Also had a glass of the Sauvignon (Blanc), but it was not as good. Go to the wine store across the street and buy a bottle of the Barbera. Come back to Postojna, go to the supermarket, and eat at Proteus a third time. Go back to the room and pack.

Friday, August 28 – Dobrovo and Vrsic Pass

Drive into the Goriska Brda region on Jure's recommendation. This is a major wine growing region and there are grapevines everywhere. Head for Dobrovo which is the center of the region and take a short walk among the grapevines. Have lunch and the local wine at the castle. Drive through the backroads on the way to the road over the mountains. The road up to the Vrsic Pass has the hairpin turns numbered at each turn. We notice this at number 44 on the way up. About 23 is the top and 1 is on the bottom of the other side. The mountains are beautiful, but the road is narrow and Randy does not see much. Get out at the summit and take lots of pictures! Drive to Lake Bohinj (past Lake Bled) and find our hotel. Hotel is wonderful, very new, and we have a balcony room. Walk to town for a pizza after having a glass of Barbera wine in our room. There is a band playing lederhosen music there by the lake. They pass out free hors d'oeuvre sandwiches and glasses of wine. We have some of each. Go to Central Hotel for our pizza. Have ham, mushroom, cheese and zucchini. It was good. Getting our check was impossible. After a half an hour, we make a stink, get the check and a thimble of plum brandy to appease us. Come back to our hotel and Randy does laundry. Randy gets in trouble for getting water on the floor. Everyone goes to bed mad though we have calmed down a bit.

Saturday, August 29 – Alpine hike

Breakfast in the hotel is wonderful. They bring out a special cereal, bread and chocolate muffin for Jan. Decide to walk to the waterfall, but end up parking at the ski lift instead. Take the gondola up and then the chairlift to the second rise. Head for Sija, but it is a hard climb. Decide to make it a round trip by coming down another way. Have Jan's left-over chicken from Dobrovo for lunch. The end of the transverse is ridiculously steep. Do make it down though. Follow the track down taking lots of flower pictures. Somehow lose the trail and end up coming down a very steep, gravelly ski slope. Part way down, Jan asks if we should go back up. Randy say, "No" in what was one of his worst decisions of his life. Randy's legs start giving out. Rest and go slow is the prescription. Finally make it to the flatter portion where we can walk more easily. Get back to find out that we did eleven miles of hiking!!! Come back to the hotel, drink lots of water, and have a glass of wine. Shower and walk up the road to Kristel Hotel for dinner. Tremor shakes dining room during dinner, an earthquake in the Alps! Jan washes some clothes and Randy journals. Both sink into bed!



Sunday, August 30

Decide to have a slow day after yesterday. Jan goes to church up the road. Then we drive to the waterfalls and walk up (brochure says it's a 20 minute hike but not with sore feet). Water for falls comes out of the rock. Brochure says it comes from the highlands through a series of underground rivers and lakes inside the mountain. Have the lunch which was prepared by the hotel on the way back down. Go back to the room and nap. Walk to the small church at the end of the lake. It was closed. Walk for 20 minutes around the lake. Have another pizza at an outdoor restaurant between the lake and a sheer mountain cliff. They have a rock climbing concession on the cliff face. Go back to room and pack.



Sugar Packets from Muzicafe

Monday, August 31 – Lake Bled and drive to Ptuj

Get up for final breakfast at hotel. Walk to lake and go through chapel. Frescos everywhere. Very interesting. Depictions of John's head and John being beheaded around. Also white devil on Cain's back, angels with vampire teeth, and children with goiters.

Drive to Lake Bled. Have trouble finding a parking place. Finally find one – 5 Eu. Walk to gondola boats and have to wait for a full load. Finally get one and start out. Get to island and walk up to church. Have to pay to go in and decide not to. Have other half of lunch from yesterday and talk with a woman from Holland. Ride back taking pictures of castle above lake. Find a swan family when we get back. Jan is impressed that the signet is dark colored. We are not impressed with Lake Bled: big hotels, too many people and not much to do.

Drive to Ptuj losing the pad map along the way. Try to navigate with the AAA map. Very difficult. We both are happy to start seeing highway signs to Ptuj. Find a parking place and use Lonely Planet map to find hotel. Find it without much of a problem (Ptuj isn't very big). Check in and get local map. Navigate back to car and drive to hotel without a problem. The Muzicafe is a fun place. Have drinks in the garden and cross the river for another pizza for dinner. Excellent ice cream of dessert. Take pictures of sunset on the way back.

Tuesday, September 1 – Ptuj Day

Ptuj is small. Hotel is one block from main square. Walk there beating a tour group. Try to get into church but it is closed after 9:00 am (presumably to keep the tour groups out). Walk past the houses called out in the Lonely Planet and to the old Dominican monastery. It was supposed to be the archeology museum, but they are converting it into an auditorium and the museum is closed. Walk up to the castle and go through. Wonderful tapestries (including an Odysseus set) and period furniture on the first floor with lots of uninteresting portraits. A nice chapel at the end. Second floor had lots of uninteresting art. Ground floor had a nice exhibit of early musical instruments and a not-so-nice exhibit of armor and weapons. Gift shop had an exhibit of local parade costumes. Walk to wine shop to get some wine, but it is closed. Walk to the Franciscan monastery – again being converted into a performance center – and to the old water tower. Go back to the room and take a nap. Go to fish restaurant recommended by Lonely Planet and by the hotel. Boy, was it good. Have some Pullus Sauvignon (Blanc) 2013 and it was excellent. Have a second glass, go back to hotel and pack.

Wednesday, September 2 – Spa Day

After another nicely presented breakfast at Muzicafe, go over to Pullus outlet and try to buy wine. They only have the 2014 vintage. Drive to Rogaška Slatina guided by map on the phone. Make a number of wrong turns but go only a few meters out of the way. Arrive directly at Hotel Donat spa. Have a fright when Randy's wallet is not in his pocket. After having attendant call the Muzicafe hotel, we eventually find it in the car. Enjoy the warm mineral water pool for an hour and then Jan gets a massage while Randy walks around town. Get some spa mineral water to drink (neither of us like it very well – tastes like seltzer water) and head for Ljubljana. Lose map on pad after making most of the hard turns. Follow the signs to the freeway and then to Ljubljana center and find our hotel ("City Hotel" this time) quite easily. Randy returns car while Jan checks in. No problem either place. Do wash and go out for dinner along the river. Another good meal and another two glasses of wine. Have dessert at the Grand Hotel Union.

Thursday, September 3 – Out of Slovenia to Innsbruck

Get up early, shower, and finish packing. Have a quick breakfast and check out of the hotel. Walk to train station. Train is on time of course. Change trains in Austria without problems. Each lunch on second train. Arrive in Innsbruck and get taxi at train station. He takes us directly to the hotel right in the middle of the pedestrian zone. Old hotel – Mozart stayed here. Walk around old town square to Inn River. Not as green as Jan remembers it. It storms while we were out, but we stay under cover. Go to wine bar and sample Austrian reds – quite good. Have dinner of brat and skillet of potatoes. Apple strudel with vanilla sauce for dessert. Shop the main drag until it starts to rain again. Come to hotel, nap and do laundry.

Friday, September 4

It was supposed to rain all day and then all afternoon. At 6:30 pm, it hadn't rained at all yet. First go to St. Jacob's Church – very ornate. Then go to the Hofkirche where Maximilian's tomb is (but not where he is buried – strange). It is over the top. Get lunch on the street. Go to the TIC for tickets to

the boys choir concert tomorrow night. Then go through the palace. There is a strange preoccupation with death. See period rooms and the grand hall. Go to the folk art museum. See many items from different festivals and from farm life. Another exhibit was about the stoves in period parlors. Enjoyed the carvings on the beams and furniture. Go back to the hotel and nap.

Head out for dinner at Die Wilderin, a place recommended by Lonely Planet. It is Wine Fest on a nice night and the streets and restaurant are crowded. No room at the inn. Have a glass of wine with the crowd outside and eat at one of the restaurants one the street across from our hotel, the one in front of the lingerie shop. Go back to Die Walderin and make a reservation for tomorrow night after the concert.

Saturday, September 5

Rainy day. Spend it in the art museum. Go to the archeology section in the morning. Funny tool that had an hourglass shape with one sharp end and the other one with ridges that could have held a handle. A hoe? Swords, spear tips, and helmets appear as soon as metal does. Go back to room and have a sandwich and last night's leftovers. Return to art museum. A lot of Tirol imitations of other styles. One Rembrandt. Nice early string instrument collection including a viola d'amore with seven strings for playing and five sympathetic strings under the finger board. Another highlight was the original carved stones from the golden roof house on the square down the street from our hotel. There was a special exhibit on World War I (it was its 100 year anniversary). Earphone guide was often helpful but equally often confusing.

After the museum, the rain had almost stopped. Went back to Wine Fest for another glass of wine. Sat near a young girl with a St. Bernard on a leash. The girl couldn't sit still for 30 seconds. She was always taking off dragging the St. Bernard behind her.

Back to the room and then off to the church for the concert. The choir had an angelic sound and the church had wonderful resonance. Dally on the way to the restaurant for dinner. Had a good dinner and some more wine. Reserved a table right up in front. Go back to room and pack.

Sunday, September 6 – To Salzburg

Breakfast in the hotel under Mozart's gaze for the last time. Finish packing and taxi to the railroad station. Arrive in plenty of time. No trouble finding the right train and boarding. Off to Salzburg. Arrive and take taxi to hotel. Check in and find we have a room with two single beds. Ask to have room changed but there are no rooms with a double bed available. Go to TIC and get tickets to concerts of Monday and Tuesday evening. In front of the TIC is a square with a fountain with four horses spitting water and horse and buggy rides. Walk through "Dom" – a masterful Baroque church. Walk into the center of the Residenz. Go back and get Salzburg card from TIC. Walk back to the hotel and through Mirabell gardens (where portions of the "Sound of Music" were shot; only recognize the fountain and stairs after we see people for the "sound of Music" tour there). Gardens are lovely even this time of year. Have pizza at a restaurant across from the hotel and then call it a night. Do some wash and go to bed.

Monday, September 7

Breakfast in the hotel is not very good. Hang out there until about noon. Salzburg card gives us a boat ride and we take the noon cruise. Up the Salz River to the edge of town and to where we can see the mountains. On the way back, the captain makes the boat do a waltz (spinning the boat on the river while the Blue Danube plays on the loud speaker system). After much looking, we find a hole in the wall for lunch. Spend the afternoon in the Residenz (DomQuartier) going through staterooms, the art collection (a wonderful Rembrandt painted on gold leaf which made the portrait of an old woman shimmer), and the gallery, and then rush through the church and St. Peter's treasuries. Walk up the hill

to the Stift Nonnberg, the convent where Maria was a novice. Can't go into the nunnery, but did look into the church.

Decide not to eat before the concert. Go back to the room and rest. Walk to the Mirabell and into a marble hall for the concert. Sublime! Wonderful acoustics. Have dinner at 10:00 at the same Italian place that we ate last night. Have pasta and salad this time. Go back to room and to bed.

Salzburger  *Schloßkonzerte*



Programm

Luigi BORGHI (1745-1806)
Duo für Violine und Violoncello in D-Dur
Largo sostenuto
Allegro
Allegro

W. A. MOZART (1756-1791)
Duos für zwei Violinen über Themen
aus den Opern „Die Zauberflöte“, KV 620

L. V. BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)
Serenade für Violine, Viola und Violoncello in D-Dur, op. 8
Marcia. Allegro
Adagio
Menuetto. Allegretto
Adagio-Scherzo. Allegro molto
Allegretto alla Polacca
Tema con variazioni. Andante quasi allegretto
Marcia. Allegro

Pause

W. A. MOZART (1756-1791)
Divertimento für Violine, Viola und Violoncello
in Es-Dur, KV 563
Allegro
Adagio
Menuetto. Allegro
Andante
Menuetto. Allegretto
Allegro

Tuesday, September 8

Head out for castle. Forget to bring Jan's back brace and the concert ticket voucher. Go back. Head out again about noon. Take the funicular up mountain side. Walk the castle grounds looking at the views and have lunch in a restaurant up there. Go through the castle's interior rooms, the court rooms on the top floor and older rooms on the middle floor. Come down and go through St. Peter's cemetery. Supposedly Hayden's grave is here but neither of us are too enthusiastic about finding it. Look inside St. Peter's. Another very baroque church. They all seem to be! How did so many churches, castles, etc. get built during this time period? Have trouble finding the chocolatier, but we are persistent. Come back to the room and rest until dinner.

Make sure we have dinner before the concert this time. Eat in an Indian restaurant. Go up the funicular again (we have to pay this time; this afternoon we went up on the Salzburg card). Concert is in the Gold Room of the castle (named for the small gold rivets in the ceiling). The acoustics was not nearly as good as last night, but the concert was fun none the less.

Wednesday, September 9 – Off to Vienna

Last breakfast in the seminary, probably the least inventive of the trip. Walk half a block to get a cab to the train station. No massive red cross presence this time though their tent was still up. See a train pull in with two cars loaded with immigrants. Police are present as they get off the train and wait in a bunch for another train. Police seem very respectful and things seem very orderly. Get our train

without a problem. Have lunch on the train, same menu as the train to Innsbruck. Taxi to the hotel and do wash and nap until dinner time. Walk into old town looking for dinner. See the Dom and a lot of trendy stores. Buy a ticket for tomorrow night's concert at the palace. Walk back along another street with more trendy stores. Finally eat dinner in a café right across from the palace.

Thursday, September 10

Decide to do Lonely Planet Walking tour. Head for the starting point, the "Dom" along almost the same route as last night. See many tour groups (including one from Viking River Cruises which Karen and Larry will probably be on next spring). Get a combined ticket for the cathedral. First go to the catacombs. First there were the metal coffins of kings and then boxes where the guts of the Habsburgs were kept. They were embalmed with their hearts going one place, their bodies another and their innards staying here. Next was an ossuary where decaying coffins and exposed bones were kept. Then a pit where plague victims were thrown. Finally another ossuary with stacked bones like the Paris catacombs.

Next up was the south tower (the Gothic one) with its views of Vienna. Then lunch along the pedestrian way at de l'Europa. See a group of Japanese tourists all in orange – strange. Back to the cathedral for the audiotour of the sanctuary and an elevator ride up the north tower to see the big bell. Decide to skip the treasury and head back onto the walking tour. First find the gaudy monument that we saw last night and read that it is a memorial to the plague victims. We then walk up the street to the palace, through that to the new palace, and then to the stables which are now the art and natural history museums. We have noticed in other cities that there was a lack of ticket sales people Hawking concert tickets along the streets that we have come to expect in touristy European cities. Here they cover the walking tour. We buy tickets for tomorrow night's concert. In between the old and new palaces, Jan finds a petitpoint shop and is intrigued. Walk through a garden on the side of the palace and have a glass of wine overlooking it. Go back to the room until dinner. Find a Turkish restaurant on a side street and eat there. We go to the palace for the concert and are amazed at the number of tours that are there. Concert is good but the favorite Mozart pieces are getting a little repetitious.



Friday, September 11

Decide today is art museum day. First we walk over to the palace and buy the petitpoint that intrigued Jan yesterday. Go to the Albertina and see selections from their permanent collection, "From Monet to Picasso". There were quite a few Austrian artists that we had never heard of thrown in. Finish exhibit and have lunch. Go back to see photo exhibit, palace rooms and exhibit of drawings. Palace rooms are quite ornate with white paint and gold trim (like the other palaces we have seen). Quite baroque (or rococo?). Other exhibits are not memorable. Go back to room to rest and do final laundry. Try to find a restaurant near concert hall. As we walk by the opera house we notice a lot of police around. Then we notice a demonstration on the other side which explained the police presence out of the way. The police didn't seem too worried. They were snacking and talking.

We continue our search of dinner. Get turned away from the first place but have a great meal at the second. Concert is in a very big hall at the Musikverein attended by many tours again. More

Mozart with many repeats. However, with a chorus, they presented parts of the D-minor mass. Finish encores with the Blue Danube again. Even with the repeats, it was enjoyable.

Saturday, September 12

Take the subway for the first time on the trip. Go out to Schloss Schönbaum, the summer palace. Get a combined ticket that goes through the palace and four other places. The first is the "Prince's Garden", nicely manicured but not that inspired; the second, the "Orangerie," seems to be a holding garden for the others. Then it was time for the palace tour. Palace is very ornate with a huge number of portraits of the royal family. So much so that it was exciting to find something that was not a family portrait. The most interesting art works were the frescos in the ceilings of the main rooms. We have an ice cream snack for lunch and then go up to the Gloriette. Very good views of the palace and the gardens from the room. Can see much of Vienna from there too. Finish tour by going through the hedge maze. Eat an early dinner at the café at the palace. Subway back and walk past the Gothic city hall. There was some sort of big event here today that they were just breaking down. Go to room and pack. Go to bed early but neither of us sleeps well.

Sunday, September 13 – Heading Home

Up at 3:45 am. Shower and finish packing. Catch the cab at 5:00. At the airport shortly thereafter. Check in and have a quick breakfast. Get in a long, slow line to get our tax refund after a long walk from the gate. Get to gate just as premier class is boarding. Get boarding passes reprinted and get on plane OK. Arrive in Chicago 50 minutes early. Clear customs without a problem. Different flight number to Cincinnati that leaves 15 minutes later. It is packed, but we get home OK. Becky picks us up. It is nice to sleep in our own bed.