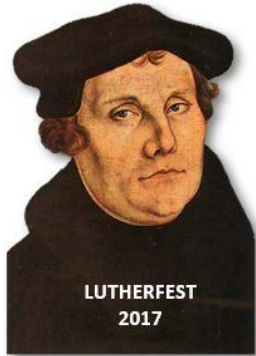




2017 REFORMATION TOUR OF GERMANY

· LUTHERFEST ·

September 8-16, 2017



500 years ago, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the Wittenburg Church door.

Let's go see it!

Travel with a fun and adventurous group to the cradle of our Reformed Tradition.

Day 1: Friday, September 8, 2017 • Overnight Flight to Berlin, Germany

Our journey to explore the sites and heroes of the Reformation begins with an overnight flight to Berlin. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the flight! (IF)

Day 2: Saturday, September 9, 2017 • Arrival in Berlin

Our tour director will welcome us on our arrival in Berlin, and escort us to the waiting bus. We will begin with a guided tour of Berlin including stops at the famous Brandenburg Gate for photos. We will also see the Cathedral, the Reichstag building, and Cold War Check Point Charlie Museum. Our welcome dinner is at our hotel this evening. (D)

Hotel: Hotel Leonardo Berlin Alexanderplatz (4 star) or similar



Day 3: Sunday, September 10, 2017 • Wittenberg, Leipzig



After breakfast we will drive to Wittenberg and have a delicious lunch at the Brauhaus Restaurant by the market square. We will visit the Luther House Museum, where Martin Luther and his family lived. This Reformation museum's collection includes Luther's desk, his pulpit, and first editions of his books. Nearby is St. Mary's Church, a twin-towered gothic church where Luther preached the Reformation, got married (1525), and baptized his six children. We will go to the spot where Luther reputedly burned the Papal Bull, by which Rome condemned him as a heretic. In the Castle Church we will see Luther's tomb and gather outside the doors where Luther posted his 95 Theses against the sale of indulgences—and launched the Reformation in 1517. We will continue on

to Leipzig and dine at our hotel. (B/L/D)

Hotel: Hotel Mercure am Johannisplatz (4 star) or similar

Day 4: Monday, September 11, 2017 • Leipzig

Today we will explore one of Europe's flourishing trade and commercial centers during the Middle Ages which became the center of resistance to Communist rule a quarter century ago. Here we have the privilege of visiting the Nikolaikirche (St. Nicholas Church), the home of the faithful "Pray for Peace" Christians, and the powerful force that transformed Germany's East and West. In 1989, thousands of East Germans gathered by candlelight in this church to form human rights and pro-democracy demonstrations that led to the destruction of the infamous Berlin Wall and the dissolution of East Germany. Another Leipzig highlight is our visit to Thomaskirche (St. Thomas Church), where Luther preached and Johann Sebastian Bach performed and directed the famous St. Thomas Boys choir. We will have lunch at one of Luther's favorite places, the Auerbachs Keller restaurant, which dates back to 1525. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B/L)



Day 5: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 • Erfurt, Eisenach



We will drive to Erfurt this morning and there will be time to purchase lunch in the town center. In the afternoon we will be joined by our local guide, who will take us to St. Mary's Cathedral where Luther celebrated his first mass and the delightful Merchant's Bridge. Following in Luther's footsteps, we will also visit the Augustinian Monastery. While we are there, we will see the "Luther Cell" and exhibition. We will end the day in Eisenach and dine in our hotel. (B/D)
Hotel: Hotel Eisenacher Hof (4 star) or similar

Day 6: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 • Eisenach

This morning we'll tour the imposing Wartburg Castle, where Luther took refuge after a fake kidnapping staged by his friend and protector, Frederick the Wise. This is where Luther translated the New Testament into German in just 11 weeks! After our tour, we will return to Eisenach for a guided tour, including St. George's Church, the Luther House and the Luther Monument. We will end the day with a special after-hours wine and music reception at the Bach House, featuring a private concert with period instruments. (B/D)



Day 7: Thursday, September 14, 2017 • Mainz, Rudesheim



We will travel south to the Rhine region this morning and spend the afternoon in Mainz. We will have a guided tour of the Cathedral and the Gutenberg Museum. The rest of the day is at leisure. We will stay in the Rudesheim area for two nights. (B)
Hotel: Hotel Central (3 star) or similar

Day 8: Friday, September 15, 2017 • Rhine Cruise, Worms, Rudesheim



We will begin our day with a delightful and picturesque cruise from Rudesheim to Sankt Goar, past magnificent castles and the famous Loreley Rock. Our bus will then take us to Worms see the amazing Cathedral, followed by the site of Luther's Worms Debates (Diet of Worms), now a park, with a plaque commemorating Luther's brave stand for faith and truth. We'll have a photo stop at the stunning Reformation Monument, followed by a visit to the Church of the Holy Trinity. Dinner tonight will be in a castle with views over the Rhine. (B/D)

Day 9: Saturday, September 16, 2017 •Return

We will transfer from our hotel to the airport for our morning flights to the USA. (B/IF)

IF = In flight meals, B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

INCLUDED:

Transportation:

- Land transportation via private, deluxe air-conditioned motor coach

Accommodations:

- Double occupancy accommodations in centrally-located 3 and 4 star hotels with good bus access.

Meals:

- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Water with meals

Sightseeing:

- Admission to all activities indicated in the itinerary

Guides:

- Professional Tour Director throughout the tour
- Local guides for city tours

Taxes, Tips etc:

- All other taxes and tips for provided services other than for tour director and driver
- Porterage in hotels

NOT INCLUDED:

- Air transportation and related taxes and fees (group air available soon)
- Meals, other than as indicated above
- Items of a personal nature, such as passport fees
- Tips for tour director and driver
- Optional insurance (group insurance available)

COSTS: start at \$2390 (double occupancy)

Based on 20-24 travelers. Costs will decrease with more travelers, but we aim to take no more than 30 people.

TRAVEL FOR A HIGHER PURPOSE: A donation to the Pinecrest Camp and Retreat Ministry is included as part of the trip cost.

Interested? Need more info? Contact Lucy Cummings lucygc@bellsouth.net 901.652.4055 (cell)

Ready to go? Contact Lucy to sign up. You'll get information about registration and \$350 deposit.

