

Lands of the Lutherans Tour



Join Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary on a tour of the great cities and towns of Germany that shaped the Lutheran Reformation. The twelve-day tour, which includes a day in Prague, will highlight the work of Lutheran pastors and theologians, musicians and artists, and princes and patrons. The tour extends from May 24 to June 4, 2015. Professors James Tiefel and James Korthals will lead the tour.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN
SEMINARY

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ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday, May 24 - Chicago

Depart Sunday evening from Chicago. Destination: Berlin, the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Day 2: Monday, May 25 - Berlin

Welcome to Berlin! Our tour director will meet us at the airport. On the way to our hotel he will point out many of the notable sites of this great city. After hotel check-in we'll head out for a walking tour of several of the city's historic districts.

Day 3: Tuesday, May 26 - Berlin and Wittenberg

We'll spend the morning in Berlin at the world-renowned Pergamon Museum, which features the famed Pergamon Altar and the Market Gate of Miletus, both moved piece by piece from Asia Minor (Turkey) in the early 20th century. After a visit to the great Berlin Cathedral (Berliner Dom), the city's main Lutheran church, we'll enjoy free time to visit other sites as we wish. In the late afternoon we'll depart via coach for Wittenberg.

Day 4: Wednesday, May 27 - Wittenberg

Wittenberg is the highlight of any tour to the Luther lands, and a local guide will take us on a walking tour of the famous sites, now meticulously restored: Martin Luther's home which houses many of his personal possessions; the home of his friend and colleague, Philip Melancthon; the home and studio of Lucas Cranach, the great Reformation artist. We'll also visit the Castle Church and its famous doors where Luther nailed his 95 Theses on October 31, 1517, and St. Mary's Church, where Luther and his family worshiped and where he served as preaching assistant.

Day 5: Thursday, May 28 – Wittenberg, Eisleben, and Eisenach

The first stop on Thursday is Eisleben, where Luther was born in 1483 and where he died in 1546. From there we're off to Eisenach, the birthplace of Johann Sebastian Bach, the greatest of all Lutheran composers and organists. The Bachhaus museum is near Bach's childhood home, and interested tour members may want to spend some time there on Friday.

Day 6: Friday, May 29 - Eisenach

A local guide will lead us on a walking tour of the well-known Eisenach sites: the home of Madam Cotta, where Luther lived as a student during his teenage years, and the medieval St. George Church, where Bach was baptized and where Luther sang in the boys' choir and later preached at the time of the Diet of Worms. Just outside the city is the Wartburg Castle. One of Germany's best preserved castles, the fortress was Luther's hiding place after the Diet of Worms and the location where he translated the New Testament into German.

Day 7: Saturday, May 30 – Erfurt, Weimar, Jena, and Leipzig

After breakfast in Eisenach we'll coach to Erfurt. Luther lived in the Augustinian monastery here after he decided to become a monk. We'll visit St. Mary's Cathedral and the Church of St. Severus, which house some of the most significant works of religious art in Germany. Our stop in Weimar, where Bach served the royal court, includes a visit to the famous St. Peter and Paul Church and its impressive altar painted by Lucas Cranach, father and son. Luther himself brought the Reformation to Jena, and for many years the university was the center of Lutheran orthodoxy.

Day 8: Sunday, May 31 - Leipzig

In the morning we'll worship with the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church congregation in Nerchau and then return to Leipzig for lunch and fellowship with other ELFK members. Leipzig is where two great Lutheran composers, Johann Sebastian Bach and Felix Mendelssohn, did their greatest work: Bach, who served as Cantor at St. Thomas Church; and Mendelssohn, who revived Bach's St. Matthew Passion. We'll be able to visit sites associated with both composers.

Day 9: Monday, June 1 – Leipzig, Grimma, Torgau, and Dresden

On our way to Dresden we'll stop at Grimma and see the ruins of the Nimbschen monastery where Katherine von Bora resided before she escaped to eventually marry Luther. Torgau has a rich Reformation history and is the site of the Hartenfels Palace and its chapel, the first church to be designed under the influence of Luther's teaching. In the evening we'll coach to Dresden.

Day 10: Tuesday, June 2 - Dresden and Prague

We'll spend most of the day in great Dresden, the city of Lutheran power and wealth. The highlight of the day will be a visit to the Frauenkirche, perhaps the most famous Lutheran church in the world. Designed by George Bahr in 1726 according to Lutheran liturgical concepts, the great domed church was built as a Lutheran response to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The building collapsed in the firebombing of Dresden in 1945 but was rebuilt and rededicated in 2005. We'll depart for Prague late in the day.

Day 11: Wednesday, June 3 - Prague

Spared from destruction during World War II, Prague remains much the city it was at the time of the Reformation. In the morning we'll walk through the old town and visit Wenceslaus Square, Hradcany Castle, and St. Vitus Cathedral, said to rival the magnificence of Notre Dame in Paris. John Huss studied in Prague and later served as dean at Charles University, the oldest in central Europe. The afternoon will allow for visits to other Prague sites and shops.

Day 12: Thursday, June 4 – Prague and Chicago

We'll depart Prague and end our tour as we return to Chicago.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Air transportation Chicago to Berlin and Prague to Chicago via scheduled carrier including current departure taxes and fuel surcharges of \$716.30 (Taxes & fuel surcharges are subject to change)
- Accommodations in superior tourist class hotels with private bath, double occupancy
- Daily breakfast AND dinner
- Services of an English speaking tour director from time of arrival in Europe until departure.
- Porterage of one piece of normal sized luggage at hotels (if available)
- Transportation and excursions as listed in the itinerary via private deluxe motor
- Guided sightseeing tours in Berlin, Wittenberg, Eisenach, Dresden and Prague
- Included admission to: Pergamon Museum, Berlin Cathedral, Castle Church, St. Mary's Church, Luther House, Melancthon House, and Lucas Cranach House in Wittenberg, Luther Birth House in Eisleben, Luther House in Eisenach, Wartburg Castle, Augustinian Monastery in Erfurt, Chapel at Hartenfels Palace, St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague, and Prague Castle
- All hotel taxes and service charges are included
- All gratuities for the driver and tour director are included

The price of the tour is \$3,999.00 per person, based on double occupancy. **A \$100.00 discount will be credited to all registrations postmarked by October 31, 2014.**

For additional tour information, contact Prof. James Tiefel; 262-242-8149; tiefelj@wls.wels.net.

For reserving a place on the tour, contact Value Holidays, 1-800-558-6850 (Joerg@valhol.com). The reservation deadline is February 9, 2015. To receive the \$100.00 discount, registrations must be postmarked by October 31, 2014. Space is limited. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

A deposit of \$350 per person is required to reserve your space. An intermediate payment of \$500 per person is due January 9, 2015. The balance is due April 9, 2015.

YES, I/we will join the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary tour to Germany & Prague from May 24 to June 4, 2015.

RATE: \$3,999.00 per person, sharing twin or double room includes current departure taxes & fuel surcharges (\$100.00 discount for registration by October 31, 2014; single supplement of \$468.00)

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: My deposit check for \$350.00 per person, made payable to Value Holidays, is enclosed. An intermediate payment of \$500.00 per person is due January 9, 2015. The balance is due April 9, 2015. Credit card payments are subject to a 3% surcharge. Your registration is due no later than February 9, 2015.

Full name(s) (as shown in passport):

1. First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Passport number _____ Country of Issue _____ Expires: _____

Date of birth _____ Gender (please circle): M F

2. First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Passport number _____ Country of Issue _____ Expires: _____

Date of birth _____ Gender (please circle): M F

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening: _____

E-mail: _____

Special requests and remarks: _____

☐ Please mail information about travel insurance.

☐ I do not require any travel insurance and therefore decline your offer.

I have read and fully understand your general terms and conditions as printed on the reverse side of this reservation form (please make a copy for your records).

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

Mail registration & deposit check to: Value Holidays
10224 N. Port Washington Rd
Mequon, WI 53092
Phone: 262-241-6373 or 800-558-6850
E-mail: joerg@valhol.com



GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Reservations and Payments: Prices are based on double occupancy. A deposit of \$350.00 per person is required to reserve your space. An intermediate payment of \$500.00 per person is due January 9, 2015. Your balance is due on April 9, 2015. Credit card payments are subject to a 3% surcharge.

Hotels: Accommodations in superior tourist class hotels. All rooms are with private bathroom. Single room accommodations are available for a supplement of \$468.00.

Baggage: Transportation and portage of one suitcase per person will be accepted. The organizers of the tour accept no liability for loss or damage to luggage, although maximum care will be taken to insure safe handling of your luggage.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be received in writing. For cancellations received on or before February 8, 2015, a cancellation fee of \$50.00 per person will be charged. For cancellations received between February 9, 2015, and March 23, 2015, a cancellation fee of \$500.00 per person applies. For cancellations received between March 24, 2015, and April 23, 2015, 50% of the tour price is non-refundable. There is no refund for cancellations received on or after April 24, 2015.

Insurance: Personal trip cancellation, travel accident, and baggage insurance is highly recommended.

Not Included in Price: Expenses for passport, meals and beverages other than those stated in the program, items of a personal nature such as laundry, dry cleaning, phone, internet, mini bar, transportation to and from airports in the United States.

Prices: Rates are those in effect at the time of printing (May 2014) and are subject to change without notice due to increase in hotel and government taxes, currency exchange fluctuations, and airfares. Current departure taxes, custom inspection fees, fuel and security surcharges in the amount of \$716.30 per person ARE included. Since taxes and fuel surcharges are subject to change until airline tickets are issued, any increases will be charged with the final invoice. The price of this tour is based on a minimum participation of 25 persons.

Shopping: Value Holidays is not responsible for shopping done in places recommended by any of our representatives abroad. Purchases made as a result of such recommendation are the sole responsibility of the buyer.

Operation of Program: Every effort will be made to operate the program as per the scheduled itinerary. Due to conditions or circumstances beyond our control, Value Holidays reserves the right to adjust the itinerary or alter the accommodations. Any substitutions will be within the original category.

Required Travel Documents: For U.S. citizens traveling between the U.S. and international destinations it is the traveler's responsibility to provide a current passport, valid for at least six months beyond your travel dates, as proper documentation. All children, regardless of age, must possess a valid passport. Failure to possess required documents may result in denied boarding. No refunds will be made if passengers are denied boarding. Non-U.S. citizens must contact the appropriate destination embassy or consulate for correct document requirements.

Responsibility of Organizer: Value Holidays and organizers act in the capacity of agents in all matters of transportation and tour operators, and their liability is limited to the terms of the tour package. Value Holidays and organizers, or their agents, are not liable for delays, inconveniences, accidents, expenses or mishaps of any kind resulting entirely, or in part, from the negligence of others or from causes beyond their control. The right is reserved to decline, to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour if such person's health, mental well being, or general deportment hinders the operation of the tour. Value Holidays and organizers are not liable for defaults of other firms or agencies. Baggage is at owner's risk at all times.

Responsibility of Airline: The airline is responsible only for the air travel portion performed by it on behalf of the tour participants in accordance with the terms and conditions of their individual passage contracts and subject to the laws, treaties and regulations governing air transportation. Tour services, including but not limited to carriage by land or sea, guide services, hotel accommodations, restaurants, and all services by other than carriage by air, are furnished by contractors who are independent and so not act for or on behalf of the airline. The airline shall not be held responsible for any act, omission, or event occurring prior to the tour participant's embarkation upon or after his disembarkation from the aircraft. The usual passage contract used by the airline when tickets are issued shall constitute the sole contract between airline and the tour participant, and in purchasing a passage contract as part of this tour, the participant acknowledges and accepts the foregoing conditions. The airline is not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time that passengers are not on board its aircraft.