



GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND REFORMATION JUBILEE TOUR
October 28th – November 9th 2017

The Reformation changed the World. In 2017 it will be 500 years that the Reformation started with Martin **Luther** nailing 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The evangelical church in Germany celebrates this anniversary with the "Luther-Decade".

Cities we will visit: Berlin, Wittenberg, Erfurt, Eisenach, Worms, Strasbourg, Constance, Lucerne, Zurich, Grindelwald, Geneva



ITINERARY

Day 1: Saturday 28th October 2017 Overnight Flight from Chicago to Berlin, Germany

Our journey to explore the sites of the Reformation begins with an overnight flight to Berlin. Overnight and Meals on Board. **International Flight Depart Chicago O'Hare at 4.15 pm. PLEASE BE AT CHICAGO O'HARE (ORD) AIRPORT, Terminal 5 at 12.30pm. International flight is operated by KLM**

Day 2: Sunday 29th October 2017 Arrival in Berlin

Welcome to Germany! On arrival in Berlin, we will meet with our Tour Guide. A first bus orientation trip in Berlin includes the most famous sights like the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag Parliament, the Holocaust memorial, Berlin cathedral, and remnants of Berlin Wall. We will have our welcome dinner in Berlin tonight after a long travel day.

Overnight, Breakfast and Dinner in Berlin

Day 3: Monday 30th October 2017 Berlin

We have a full day in Berlin to visit more sights and museum, as well as to prepare for the Reformation Jubilee. In the morning we will visit the first of three "National Exhibitions" commemorating the 500th Reformation Jubilee in the German Historical Museum. "The Luther Effect" is the title of the exhibit which spans the time from the Reformation to the present day: "What impact and consequences did the Reformation have and what role did the historical person Martin Luther play in this?", the organizers ask.

The afternoon is on leisure to visit other museums like the WWII Topography of Terror Museum or Art Museums. We stay tuned for more events, concerts, and worship opportunities around the Reformation Jubilee.



One of that is the "Luther Pop Oratorio" in the 17,000 seats Mercedes Benz Arena tonight, one of the optional possibilities to spend the evening. (Ticket not included)
Overnight, Breakfast and Dinner in Berlin

Day 4: Tuesday 31st October 2017 Wittenberg

Today is the day! It is exactly 500 years that Martin Luther posted his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, starting the Reformation. We shuttle into Wittenberg this morning to be part of the festivities. The day will be filled with worship, fellowship, music, arts, and sightseeing. On our guided tour through the town we will of course see the door at the Castle Church where everything started. We will also visit the Luther museum with the 2nd of the "National Exhibitions", displaying "95 treasures", artefacts gathered from around the globe to be displayed for the Jubilee. And we will see Lucas Cranach's famous altar in the town church. The entire town will be festally crowded, and we are there as well!
Overnight, Breakfast and Dinner in Berlin

Day 5: Wednesday 1st November 2017 Erfurt

After a relaxing time of breakfast we will travel to Erfurt, where we will have free time for lunch and a stroll around this delightful medieval town. Our local guide will take us on a tour including St. Mary's Cathedral, lovely restored timber framed houses, and the famous Merchant's Bridge. We will end at the Augustinian Monastery where Luther became a monk on July 17, 1505. We will be able to see his monastic quarters, including one cell furnished to look as it would have done when he lived there. At the end of the tour we will have a group worship service in the monastery's church, built in 1277.
This evening we will dine in a "medieval styled" restaurant with a traditional meal from Luther's time.
Overnight, Breakfast and Dinner in Erfurt.

Day 6: Thursday 2nd November 2017 Wartburg Castle, Eisenach

We head for a day excursion to Eisenach, a little town towered by the Wartburg castle. In 1521, while fleeing from the wrath of the Pope, Luther took refuge in the Wartburg Castle after a fake kidnapping staged by his friend and protector, Frederick the Wise. We will tour the Wartburg and see where Luther finished translating the New Testament into German in just eleven weeks. In 2017, the Wartburg will be the place for the 3rd "National Exhibition" for the Reformation Jubilee, focusing on "Luther and the Germans."
Following the visit at the Wartburg we will drive downhill into Eisenach, which also is the birthplace of Johann Sebastian Bach. Luther spent time here at as school boy and sang in the choir of St. George's Church, where later the Bach family also worshiped and Johann Sebastian was baptized. The afternoon is free to explore the town or tour the Bach Museum and Luther House Museum. The bus will then take us back to Erfurt.
Overnight, Breakfast and Dinner in Erfurt.

Day 7: Friday 3rd November 2017 Worms, Strasbourg

We hit the German interstate Autobahn today and travel westbound, passing the metropolitan area of Frankfurt. Our en-route stop is Worms, place of the "imperial diet" where Luther confessed his faith to the Kaiser – and from where he had to flee to Wartburg castle. Our guide will take us to see the amazing Cathedral, followed by the site of Luther's 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.
We will then travel into France to visit Strasbourg, referred to as the "City of Hope" and "Refuge of the Righteous" by the Anabaptists. This is where John Calvin wrote his famous books on systematic theology and where Martin Bucer, another Reformation leader, helped bring in the Reformation.
Overnight, Breakfast and Dinner in Strasbourg.

Day 8: Saturday 4th November 2017 Strasbourg

Our day in Strasbourg starts with a visit of the cathedral. We will then take a canal boat for a sightseeing tour, passing the old and new sides of Strasbourg like charming "La Petite France" quarter as well as the towers of



the European parliament. The afternoon is on leisure for own discoveries and shopping before we meet for dinner in a restaurant.

Overnight, Breakfast and Dinner in Strasbourg.

Day 9: Sunday 5th November 2017 Constance, Zurich

Today we will have breakfast in France, lunch in Germany and dinner in Switzerland! Our en-route stop is Constance at Lake Constance. 600 years ago Constance was the place of council which sentenced the Czech reformer Jan Hus to death. We will pray on the spot where the pre-Reformer Jan Hus was martyred, and see the house where the trial was held. Crossing over to Switzerland.

Overnight, Breakfast and Dinner in Zurich.

Day 10: Monday 6th November 2017 Zurich, Lucerne

This morning we will meet up with our guide in Zurich, to learn about Zwingli and the Anabaptists on a tour of the key Reformation sites in Zurich. We will tour the Grossmünster, the Helferei (where Zwingli lived) and see the Zwingli Statue. After a stroll through the historic Auld Stadt (old city) we will depart for Lucerne. The afternoon is free to explore Lucerne's picturesque lakeside setting and 14th century Chapel Bridge, which is the most photographed monument in Switzerland. We will end the day in our hotel.

Overnight, Breakfast and Dinner in Lucerne.

Day 11: Tuesday 7th November 2017 Grindelwald Area

We travel into the Alps to the area of Grindelwald and Lauterbrunnen. This is our fun Alps play day! Local leisure options include bike rental, or the cogwheel railway up to Kleine Scheidigg and the spectacular Jungfrau Peak.

Overnight, Breakfast and Dinner in Grindelwald area

Day 12: Wednesday 8th November 2017 Geneva

We will stop for coffee in medieval Murten, where we can walk atop the original city walls and explore another chapter of Swiss history. We then continue to Geneva, where Calvin, Knox, Farel and others brought Christ's teachings to eager listeners. Our tour will begin at the impressive Reformation Monument. Four statues of four Reformation leaders stand as sentinels to truth and courage inspired by godly faith. We will see Calvin's church, the Auditoire de Calvin, (Calvin's Academy, also known as The Protestant Lecture Hall), where the inspired theologian himself taught. Next door is St. Pierre's Cathedral, where John Calvin preached. We can see his chair and a restored section decorated as it would have been before Calvin. Our final stop is an audio guide tour through the incredible Reformation Museum. Below the museum and the Cathedral, we can see the ruins of a Roman sanctuary, a 4th century basilica, and a 6th century church. We have a free time this afternoon to experience these key sites before we dine at a local restaurant this evening for our farewell meal.

Overnight, Breakfast and Dinner in Geneva.

Day 13: Thursday 9th November 2017 Return

We transfer from the hotel to the airport for our flights back home. **Our international flight leave Geneva at 7.10 AM landing Chicago O'Hare Airport at 2.30 pm on the same day.**