

Itinerary for “500th Anniversary of the Reformation” Tour October 23 – November 7, 2017

Monday, October 23 - Depart from Frankenmuth by coach this afternoon to Detroit Metro for our non-stop service to Amsterdam.

Tuesday, October 24 - Arrive in Amsterdam this morning. Today's sightseeing will consist of a visit to the Anne Frank-House, a 2-hour guided tour of Amsterdam and entrance to the Jewish Museum. Two nights in Amsterdam.

Wednesday, October 25 - Today we have a full day of touring to Volendam visiting a cheese factory and clog production. Volendam is a town in northern Holland and a popular tourist destination, well known for its old fishing boats and traditional clothing worn by some of the residents. Also a guided tour to Zaanse Schans and a visit will be made to a diamond cutter in Amsterdam. We will finish the day with a canal cruise.

Thursday, October 26 - This morning we visit the Rijksmuseum with audio guide. This museum has Dutch art and history from the Middle Ages to the present. Then we continue to Margraten which is where we will visit the only American military cemetery that is on Dutch soil. Arrangements have been made to visit two American grave sites who were from the Saginaw County. We have 8,301 Americans buried there from World War II. Then later in the day we continue our drive to Cologne. We will spend one night in Cologne.

Friday, October 27 - This morning we will have a 2-hour visit seeing the sights of Cologne. Continue our drive to Rudesheim. This is a popular wine making town on the Rhine Gorge and is also part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. We continue our drive to Mainz. The city is famous as the home of the movable-type, the famous Guttenberg printing press. Two nights in Mainz.

Saturday, October 28 - This morning we visit the Gutenberg Museum which is one of the oldest museums of printing in the world. Remainder of day at leisure.

Sunday, October 29 - We leave Mainz this morning and make our way to Rothenburg ob der Tauber. It is located in middle Franconia and is known for its well preserved medieval old town, a destination for tourists around the world. A guided tour for 1.5 hours is included. We continue our drive to Gunzenhausen, Frankenmuth's sister city of 55 years.

We will be met and greeted by the mayor of Gunzenhausen. Our private stay will consist of two nights. All of your meals will be taken care of by your host family.

Monday, October 30 - Spend the day with your host family visiting Gunzenhausen and the surrounding areas.

Tuesday, October 31 - Early departure today for our drive to Nuremberg. A city tour is scheduled with a visit to the St. Lorenz church. We then continue our drive to Erfurt where we will stay for two nights. Erfurt has one of the oldest universities and Martin Luther was the famous student of the institution.

Wednesday, November 1 - This morning we will drive to Eisenach and visit the Wartburg Castle. A one-hour guided tour is planned. UNESCO added this to their site and this is where Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German.

Then we have a tour of Eisenach for 1.5 hours and have entrance into the Lutherhouse. Martin Luther lived here as a school boy from 1498 to 1501. Now it is an exhibition tracing important stages in the reformer's life through paintings and manuscripts.

Thursday, November 2 - This morning we visit some of the Luther Memorials, the place where he was born and his death in Eisleben. We also have the opportunity to visit the churches of St. Peter & Paul and St. Andrew's in Eisleben.

Friday, November 3 - This morning we will enjoy a guided tour of Leipzig. We will also visit the St. Thomas Church where Johann Sebastian Bach was choir director from 1723 until his death in 1750. It is also the home of the famous St. Thomas Boys Choir.

Saturday, November 4 - This morning we will continue our drive to Wittenberg. Besides the guided city tour, we have a visit to the St. Mary's Church. This is a twin-tower Gothic style church where Martin Luther preached, was married and had his 6 children baptized here. Overnight in Wittenberg.

Sunday, November 5 - This morning we will continue north to Potsdam and visit the Castle of Sanssouci. Potsdam was the residence of the Prussian kings and the German kaisers. Formerly the summer palace of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia. Continue to our last stop, Berlin. Two nights here.

Monday, November 6 - A city tour is planned for this morning. Today Berlin is a city of culture, politics, media and science. Berlin is home to renowned universities, orchestras, museums, entertainment and is host to many sporting events. A guided tour is scheduled for today with free time for last minute shopping. Farewell dinner this evening.

Tuesday, November 7 - A morning departure to the Berlin airport is scheduled. Our flight will connect in Amsterdam to Detroit arriving back on the same day. Our coach will be waiting for us there.

