

# **The Reformation Excursion:**

## **In the footsteps of Martin Luther 500 Years of Reformation**

### **July 23-July 31, 2018**

This 7 day guided tour will take you to Germany historical Adventism tour. Arriving in Frankfurt, your journey will start & 7 days later it will end where we will transfer you to the Global Meeting in Stuttgart. You will travel on luxury coach buses and see approximately 28 amazing sights. Hotels, entrance fees, breakfast and dinner is included in the price quoted below all you have to provide is lunch, parking fees and driver gratuity. Please read below for a detail Itinerary.

**SUNDAY-July 23<sup>rd</sup> Take an overnight flight from United States to Frankfurt, Germany.**

#### **MONDAY- July 24<sup>th</sup> Arrival in Worms, Mainz**

You will go by motor coach from Frankfurt to the city of Worms. It was here, during the Imperial Diet in 1521, that Martin Luther challenged the entire Roman Catholic establishment by his refusal to recant the great doctrines of Protestantism. It was also here that William Tyndale completed printing of his English version of the New Testament in 1525 which he began in Cologne. Next you will see St Peter's Church and the symbolic Luther Memorial near the town square. The next stop is in the City of Mainz nearby for commentary and a picture of the Gutenberg Monument dedicated by the German printing of the bible. We will stay in Mainz overnight.

#### **TUESDAY- July 25<sup>th</sup> Eisenach**

Following breakfast, we drive to Eisenach: "Almost all my relatives live in Eisenach, and I'm known to them there and well respected; no other city knows me better.", as Luther said. We explore his city on a walking tour highlighting St George's Church where St Elizabeth was married and J.S. Bach baptized. Next we go to Luther's house where he lived as a student with the Cotta Family from 1498-1501, and view the Luther exhibition documenting his life and theologies. We will then go to the Bach Museum, the birth house of the famous composer Johann Sebastian Bach. Although he was born 200 years later than Luther he is the composer who influenced the protestant music the most. Our next stop take us to the magnificent Wartburg Castle to tour the Palas (Great Hall), art exhibitions, the Elisabeth Hallway, and the Luther Room where "Junker Jorg (the Knight George) translated the New Testament into German.) We will stay overnight in Eisenach.

#### **WEDNESDAY-July 26<sup>th</sup> Buchenwald**

This morning we will visit Erfurt, the spiritual home of Martin Luther. It was here that Luther obtained a degree in 1502 and a doctorate in faculty of philosophy in 1505. This is where he took decisive steps to turn to theology and the monastic life when he was caught in a violent thunderstorm nearby and took the vow to become a monk. Our walking tour begins in the historical section of the city including St Mary's Cathedral where Luther was ordained as a priest, the Augustinian Monastery with a permanent exhibit depicting Luther's life as a monk in Erfurt, and to the Church of St Severus, where Luther preached his sermons. The city tour also

includes the Fish Market, Town Hall and Merchants Bridge. We may visit the concentration camp Buchenwald and its permanent exhibition and the grounds. We will stay in Erfurt.

### **THURSDAY-July 27<sup>th</sup> Erfurt Eisleben Halle, Naumburg, Erfurt**

Our journey continues in the footsteps of Martin Luther in nearby Eisleben. Here we visit Luther's birth house where he was born in 1483 and died in 1546. We will visit St Peter's Church where Luther was baptized and St Andrew's Church where Luther preached his last four sermons and this is where his body was laid in state. Next stop is Halle: its most famous son George Friedrich Handel was born here in 1685 and only left the city when he was 17. His birth house now a days houses a museum. You will stroll through the historical Old City which is one of the largest in Germany. You will view the Market Square with the Handel Monument, the Market Church with the death mask of Martin Luther and the Dome where Handel used to work as an organist for a year before he left for London. Then we visit Naumburg: the late Romanesque and Early Gothic Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul is one of Europe's finest cathedrals. The twelve figures of founders, masterpieces by some anonymous Naumburg masters, are world famed. The best known pair is Uta and Ekkenhard. We stay overnight in Erfurt.

### **FRIDAY-July 28<sup>th</sup> Leipzig, Torgau, Wittenberg**

After breakfast, we enjoy a scenic drive to visit the majestic city of Leipzig. We visit the Thomaskirche (St Thomas Church) where Luther preached and Johann Sebastian Bach performed and directed the famous St Thomas Boys Choir. The next stop is Torgau: this city was the Saxonian residential city and political center of the Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Martin Luther sanctified the Castle Church as the first Protestant church. The tombstone of Katharina Von Bora, Martin Luther's wife, can be found at St Mary's Church. The only existing memorial for her is located in her last residence. We will stop and stay in Wittenberg.

### **SATURDAY-July 29<sup>th</sup> Wittenberg**

We enjoy a full day in Wittenberg. This is where Martin Luther lived and taught for 36 years. You will see the Castle Church door area where Luther posted his 95 Theses, giving birth to the Reformation. This beautiful church is also the burial site of Luther. We will see the university where Luther taught and the Luther House which is the greatest museum of his life and accomplishments, the historical documents, and an outstanding collection of period paintings of his life and family members.

### **SUNDAY-July 30<sup>th</sup> Berlin**

We travel northeast to Berlin where we can enjoy an inspirational guided tour of this fascinating city including the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate and many other sights. The highlight today will be a visit to the famous Pergamon Museum. One of the most popular attractions in Berlin, the Pergamon Museum is world famous for its archaeological holdings. The monumental highlights are truly breathtaking to behold, including the Ishtar Gate of Babylon from 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC Pergamon Altar. More notable in this collection is the façade of the throne hall of King Nebuchadnezzar with artifacts from the earliest history of the written word, and an excellent collection of Islamic Art. There will be free time this afternoon for shopping and sightseeing on your own. We will check in to hotel and stay overnight in Berlin.

**MONDAY-July 31<sup>st</sup> Departure**

We will transfer to Stuttgart to start our amazing Global Meeting.



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