

REFORMATION 500TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR & DANUBE RIVER CRUISE

Hosted by Bill and Angie Heston

October 2-13, 2017

Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church Adult Enrichment

Featuring a land tour to Wittenberg, Germany where in 1517, Martin Luther “nailed his 95 Theses” on the door of the Castle church which eventually led to the birth of the Protestant Church. The trip includes a 7-night cruise on the Danube River from Nuremberg, Germany to Budapest, Hungary with stops in Regensburg, Passau, Linz, Melk, and Vienna.



MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

Meet at IAH for departure to Germany.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3 ... BERLIN

Arrive Berlin at 11:30 am. Upon arrival at the airport, a local representative will transfer our group to the Adlon Kempinski Hotel. After check-in and lunch, we'll tour Berlin with an expert local guide visiting the Reichstag, the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, whose ruin stands as a dramatic reminder of World War II. Pass by Potsdamer Platz, a bustling cross-section of the city's past. Once desolate and divided by the Berlin Wall, the square's redevelopment can be regarded as a statement of intent for the reunified city. Next is 'Checkpoint Charlie', the famous crossing point between East and West Berlin during the years of partition. We end the tour with a visit to Berlin Cathedral, the largest 20th Century Protestant church in the country. (B)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 ... WITTENBERG, LEIPZIG, BAMBERG

We'll have an early morning departure from Berlin and travel to Wittenberg, the city known as the "Mother of the Reformation." It was here that Martin Luther lived and preached, and on October 31, 1517, he reportedly nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the All Saint's Castle Church, commonly referred to as Schlosskirche, which we will visit. (B)

Next, the Luther House Museum which houses approximately 1,000 exhibits will take you through the life and work of the reformer. The exhibits include manuscripts, charts, books and furniture as well as the pulpit from the Schlosskirche where Luther preached.

After lunch, we'll travel on to Leipzig, home of the famous Leipzig Debate in 1519 where matters such as the existence of purgatory, the sale of indulgences, the need for penance, and the legitimacy of papal authority were discussed. Take a walk around the town and visit St. Thomas Church where Martin Luther preached the implementation of the Reformation and Johann Sebastian Bach worked as choirmaster for almost 30 years and is buried.

Our journey will take us to Bamberg for our overnight stay. This beautiful town is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and it is now one of Germany's most attractive towns. After a long day travelling, we'll check-in to our hotel; the remainder of the evening is at leisure.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 ... NUREMBERG

This morning enjoy time at leisure in Bamberg with time for lunch before departing for Nuremberg where we will board the AmaDante at 3 pm. The ship will moor overnight in Nuremberg. (B)



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 ... NUREMBERG

You have two excursion options today. Take a tour of the city's medieval highlights, including Nuremberg Castle, the 900-year-old ramparts surrounding the city, Town Hall, Notre Dame and the house of artist Albrecht Dürer, or join a WWII tour and see the Coliseum, Nazi Parade Ground and Justice Palace. Later, the ship cruises the Main-Danube Canal to Regensburg. (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 ... REGENSBURG

This morning's scenic cruising brings you into the Main-Danube Canal en route to Regensburg, one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities. A guided walking tour will show you the city's architectural highlights, including the Old Town Hall and the Porta Praetoria, gates to an ancient Roman fort built in 179 AD. (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 ... PASSAU AND LINZ

After breakfast, arrive in picturesque Passau where the Inn and Ilz rivers flow into the Danube. You will have a choice of a walking tour of Passau's Old Town, past the old city fortifications, Rathaus, Domplatz and Residenzplatz squares, as well as St. Stephen's Cathedral. Or, more active guests may join either a guided bike tour along the Danube from Passau to Erlau or a guided hike up to the Veste Oberhaus fortress overlooking Passau. Return to the ship this afternoon for a scenic cruise to Linz, Austria's third largest city and a major river port. (B, L, D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9 ... MELK AND VIENNA

Early this morning, we cruise to Melk. You have a choice between a guided tour of Melk's magnificent Benedictine Abbey, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Europe's largest and most revered monasteries, or a guided bike tour along the Danube. Return to the ship for lunch before cruising on through the scenic Wachau Valley. Arrive in Vienna after dinner and explore the magnificent Austrian capital on your own. (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, October 10 ... VIENNA

This morning you will have a chance to savor the Baroque elegance of romantic Vienna through your choice of one of three different excursions. The first option is a panoramic tour of Vienna that guides you past the majestic Opera House, the former Imperial Palace of the Habsburg Emperors, Parliament, Town Hall and Vienna University. Afterwards, you will visit Vienna's historic city center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and see St. Stephen's Cathedral and the world famous Spanish Riding School. The second option is a walking tour of Vienna's hidden

treasures that takes you to secret places and sights like Ankeruhr, a whimsical Art Nouveau clock. Your third option is a guided bike tour along the Danube and through the Donaupark. This afternoon, you can join a guided bike ride to Klosterneuburg Monastery, or explore at your leisure. Tonight it will be possible to attend a concert with the Vienna Boy's Choir and the Camerata Schulz orchestra, performing works by Mozart, Strauss and Haydn. (This is an optional excursion and not included in price of trip). (B, L, D)



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 ... BUDAPEST

Your morning excursion includes sightseeing in the cities of Buda and Pest spread over both banks of the river. You will see famed Heroes' Square and Castle Hill, home to Fisherman's Bastion, Matthias Church and spectacular views of the Danube. After dinner, the ship will sail a special Illuminations Cruise past the city's glittering riverfront. (B, L, D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

We disembark the ship this morning and are transferred to our hotel. The afternoon is at leisure and we will gather this evening for a Farewell Dinner. FPC ministry partners, Jeremy and Catherine Merillot, who work with students in Budapest, will be our special guests and share about their work. (B, D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Private transfer to the airport and return home. (B)

AMAWATERWAYS ... We will be sailing on AmaWaterways, an award-winning cruise line. Among other awards, it was named by Travel+Leisure Magazine as World's Best River Cruise in 2016. There are 74 staterooms ranging from 170 to 255 square feet.

HOTELS ...

Berlin: Adlon Kempinski

A 2-minute walk from the Brandenburg Gate, this elegant upscale hotel is also a 3-minute walk from the Berlin Wall. Luxurious rooms with marble bathrooms include flat-screen TVs, free Wi-Fi and iPads, plus minibars.

Bamberg: Romantik Messerschitt

This upscale hotel set in a legendary 15th-century wine house is located in the town's pedestrian center and is an 11-minute walk from Neue Residenz palace and the Historical Museum Bamberg. All the stylish rooms have marble en suite bathrooms with heated floors, free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, desks and minibars.

Budapest: Intercontinental

Facing Buda Castle from the opposite bank of the River Danube, this sophisticated hotel is a 6-minute walk from the landmark Chain Bridge. Upgraded rooms feature tea and coffeemakers, free Wi-Fi and flat-screen TVs, minibars, as well as views of the Danube River.

PRICE OF TRIP*

Cruise Portion ...

\$4137 Cat. D (Piano deck, lower level of ship with fixed windows)

\$5057 Cat. B (Cello deck, middle level of ship with French balcony)

Other cabin categories available, please contact Lynn for additional information

Includes:

- 7-nights accommodation on ship
- Life enriching tours and excursions daily with personal headset included
- "Limited Edition Tours"
- Ama Travel Protection Plan (\$321 for Cat. D and \$441 for Cat. B)
- Entertainment on demand in all staterooms featuring free high-speed Internet access, hit Hollywood movies, extensive music library and English language TV stations
- Complimentary Wi-Fi access on board
- Terry bathrobes and white-on-white plush bedding
- Fine dining with all meals included during your cruise. Multiple dining venues
- Unlimited red & white wines from Europe's great wine regions, beer & soft drinks with every lunch and dinner on board
- Bottled water in every stateroom replenished daily
- Cocktail Reception, Welcome Dinner & Captain's Gala Dinner
- Special highlights including lectures, cooking demonstration, onboard music performances and piano music
- Bicycles to explore on your own & guided bicycle tours
- Services of professional Cruise Manager

Land Portion ... \$1134

Includes:

- 3-nights accommodation
- transportation
- guided tours
- breakfast everyday and one Group Dinner

****Notes on Pricing ...***

- all prices are per person, based on double occupancy
- based on a minimum of 20 travelers
- Single supplement for land portion is \$350
- Single supplement for river cruise is 200%
- Additional hotel nights: \$175 pp per night in Berlin and \$125 pp per night in Budapest, based on double occupancy.
- Not included: tips and gratuities to guides and river cruise staff.

Payment Schedule

- \$400 plus cost of insurance (\$321 or \$441) per person to reserve your cabin on the river cruise (includes insurance). Balance due July 1.
- \$200 per person for land portion. Balance due July 1.
- \$160 (non-refundable) per person for to reserve a seat for the group air. Balance due June 1.

GROUP AIR

10/2	AF 639	Depart Houston at 3:40 pm	Arrive Paris at 8:15 am
10/3	AF 1734	Depart Paris at 9:50 am	Arrive Berlin at 11:30 am
10/13	AF 1695	Depart Budapest at 6:25 am	Arrive Paris at 8:50 am
10/13	AF 636	Depart Paris at 10:10 am	Arrive Houston at 1:45 pm

Based on minimum of 10 travelers in either or both classes ...

Economy Class: \$805.16 (fare \$348.00 + taxes/fees \$457.16)

Premium Class: \$1641.16 (fare \$1184.00 + taxes/fees \$457.16)

Please note ... tickets purchased under "group air" are not eligible for upgrades.

Business Class also available for this flight, as well as options on Lufthansa.

**For more information on group air as well as non-group air,
please contact Alexa at Advantage Travel
alexa@viaadvantage.com or
281-558-5777**

**For more information about the river cruise, land tour, hotels,
excursions, etc., please contact Lynn Tyger
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