



The Gewandhaus concert hall (left), and new city hall (center) and other buildings in Leipzig, Germany.

DISCOVERY

February 2018

What's Special About Germany?



Rod Zook



Rennie Regehr

This fall, Rod Zook and his brother-in-law Rennie Regehr will be leading the **Marvelous Music & Culture of Germany Tour, September 19-30, 2018**. They came up with the theme for the tour by combining their passions, interests, and life experiences. Rod lived and worked in Germany for 25 years, while Rennie has spent his life as a professional violist, music school director, and professor of viola and chamber music.

"I love Germany and the German people," says Rod, who was a Mennonite Brethren pastor and later became a German and English language coach. One thing that Rod likes about the German culture is its "ehrlich" or honesty. "The German language is based on facts and information," says Rod. He adds, "You can tell where your German friends stand. There is clarity with words and body language."

The group travelling with Rod and Rennie will tour Leipzig, Berlin, Lübeck, and Hamburg. Rod is looking

forward to introducing tour members to some of his German friends—including a couple who will host the group for a backyard BBQ and chat about what Germany is like from a local perspective.

"Rod has a keen sense of curiosity about how things work and how people think," says Rennie, who listens in fascination whenever Rod talks about Germany. "What is it about Germany and Germans that has enabled them to achieve so much in the world—especially after the devastation of World War II?" wonders Rennie. Tour members will explore this and other questions.

One of Germany's gifts to the world is the incredible music birthed in this nation—from the medieval songs of Hildegard von Bingen to groundbreaking classical music composed by well-known greats including Bach, Handel, Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Wagner.

"Bach is a godfather of all music," says Rennie. He recalls visiting Thomaskirche in Leipzig, where Bach was the music director for 27 years and is now buried. "You can almost feel his spirit when you walk in that church." Rennie says the

church smells old and alive—not like a sanitized museum. "It is a living, working congregation...just like in the days of Bach," says Rennie. The plan is to attend a service at Thomaskirche during the tour.

"Those who are on the tour will be in for a very special experience," says Rennie, who adds that both he and Rod enjoy building community. "This tour won't be elitist, but it will be intelligent and thoughtful," assures Rennie. There will be active days in the stimulating environments of Berlin and Hamburg, balanced by lower-key, restorative days in Lübeck and Leipzig. Tour members will be introduced to a wide variety of musical experiences—which may include orchestra, choral, chamber, opera, and street music.

"I love being in Europe and feel very much at home there. I am excited about exploring these places from which music came," says Rennie.

For more information about the Marvelous Music & Culture of Germany Tour, visit www.tourmagination.com. You can also read full bios on Rod & Rennie on our website. 

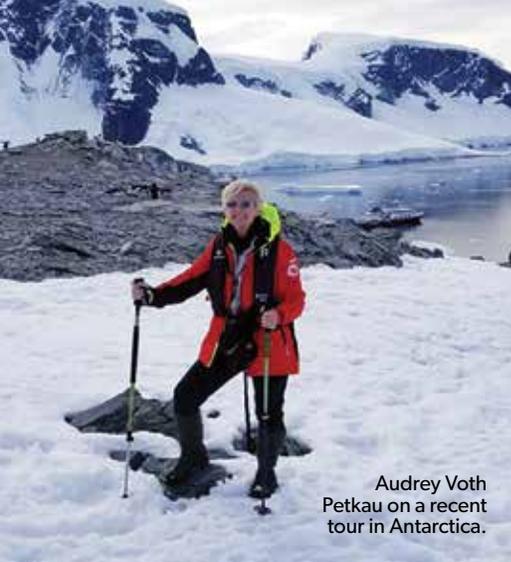
Helping People of Faith Explore,
Experience, and Expand Their World.



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Audrey Voth Petkau on a recent tour in Antarctica.

Dear Friends,

I'm grateful for and delighted by the contribution that our tour leaders make to TourMagination. Their leadership is what makes our tours special. Ignited by enthusiasm for a country or a topic, they share their expertise with our travellers.

I think of Len Friesen, who teaches Russian history at the university level and speaks Russian. He has led dozens of tours to Russia & Ukraine over the years, mainly focused on Mennonite heritage. For the first time, in 2017 Len guided a culturally focused tour in Russia—tour members loved it! The **2018 Ukraine tour** will include more cultural aspects in addition to our classic heritage itinerary plus we added an **optional cultural excursion to Russia**.

New this year, Len and his wife Mary will also be taking people to a country they love and have been to many times—**South Africa!**

In recent years other people have approached me about leading tours in their area of passion. After a successful tour to **Ireland** with a focus on Celtic spirituality in the fall of 2017, Bob & Margaret Nally will lead a similar tour in 2018. Margaret is a spiritual director and both she and Bob were born in Ireland. Committed to restorative justice, the Nallys have also included a visit to the Corrymeela Retreat Centre—which is dedicated to reconciliation among people in conflict in Ireland/Northern Ireland and beyond.

Other upcoming “passion” tours include:

Delights of Italy: Gardens, Lakes, and Cuisine, Sept. 23 – Oct. 4, 2018 with John & Kelly Schroeder. The Schroeders own Valleybrook Gardens / Heritage Perennials—a well-known national nursery company. John manages the business and Kelly is a landscape designer and avid gardener. Their work together has won multiple awards. They also love good food and are keen travellers.

Tanzania Caring, Sharing & Safari Tour for Women, Aug. 4-13, 2018 with Shirley Redekop. This tour was born out of Shirley's desire to connect North American women with their peers in Tanzania. As the President of Mennonite Women Canada, Shirley wants to help women deepen their relationships with each other and to grow in their faith. WATCH a webinar that Shirley did about the tour by going to www.tourmagination.com/tour/2018-tanzania-women/

Performing the Faith: Church & Theatre in London, July 2019 with Allan & Marilyn Rudy-Froese. Allan Rudy-Froese is a professor of Christian proclamation at AMBS in Elkhart, IN. He is knowledgeable and passionate about theatre and performance—and often includes them in his teaching and preaching.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the loss of a special tour leader who invited curious travellers into his passion for Mexican Mennonites and his birth nation, Mexico. On January 8, 2018 David Friesen was tragically killed in a car accident near Winnipeg, Manitoba. David will be remembered as a knowledgeable, gifted storyteller, a caring tour leader, and a well-connected community builder. We pray for God to comfort his wife Trudy and son John.

Audrey Voth Petkau

What Travellers are Saying About TourMagination

“Tourists visit a foreign country and come home with pictures and souvenirs. Pilgrims visit abroad and come home changed. Tourists observe. Pilgrims participate. My time in Europe [on the Amish European Heritage Tour] felt like a good combination of both tourist and pilgrim. We developed lasting friendships with Mennonites in many countries...”

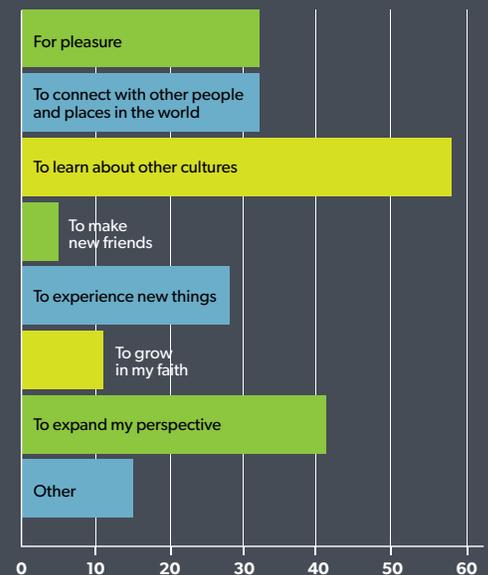
“Thank you for the tours that you provide as rich, educational experiences that are meaningful and memorable. I look forward to travelling with you again in the future.”

What You Had to Say

Thank you for responding to our recent client survey. On your behalf, we donated \$470 to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and \$188 to Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)*

*\$2 per survey response for those who specified a donation.

Why You Travel



Top 5 Destinations TourMagination Travellers Said They Wanted to Visit

Australia, New Zealand, Ukraine, Switzerland, and Russia

2018/2019 TOURS



Photo: OliBac

European Heritage Tour in the Netherlands & Belgium

April 23 – May 4, 2018 (12 days, 22 meals incl.)
From USD \$3,395; CAD \$4,195

Join tour leader Ayold Fanoy as he tells some fresh stories on our reimagined European Heritage tour in Belgium and the Netherlands. Hear about the dark history of the Gravensteen Castle in Ghent, Belgium (pictured left) where Mennonites were martyred. Also tour sites significant to the life of Menno Simons in the Netherlands. Encourage a local Mennonite congregation as you worship and visit with them.

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK! Let us know you are coming by February 28, 2018.

GUIDE TO TOUR SYMBOLS



Heritage



Holy Land



Cruise



Natural
Wonders



Cultural
Learning



Holy Land Pilgrimage in Israel & Jordan, with Ingrid & Scott Reichard

April 25 – May 9, 2018
From USD \$2,995; CAD \$3,735

MB pastor and teacher Ingrid Reichard will share engaging reflections and Scott will lead worship at significant Old & New Testament sites in Israel and Jordan. Optional snorkeling in the Red Sea.



Holy Land Peace Pilgrim Walk with Jesus, with Nelson Kraybill

May 15-25, 2018
From USD \$3,280; CAD \$4,100

With writer, Christian leader, and Bible teacher Nelson Kraybill reflect on the promises Jesus fulfilled and how he pointed toward forgiveness, love of his enemies, and healing. Walk stretches of the Jesus Trail.



Mennonites of Central Asia: Great Trek Tour, with John Sharp

May 21 – June 1, 2018
From USD \$3,195; CAD \$3,995

Hesston College history professor John Sharp will share insights about the struggles and triumphs of Mennonite families who left Russia in the 1880s to travel the legendary Silk Road to Central Asia.



Explore the World of Paul in Greece & Italy, with Tom Yoder Neufeld

June 8-21, 2018
From USD \$3,895; CAD \$4,995

Immerse yourself in the historical and cultural contexts that shaped the Apostle Paul, his message & his congregations with New Testament scholar Tom Yoder Neufeld. See meaningful sites like Philippi, Corinth, & Athens. Optional pre-tour Turkey extension June 4-7.



Alaska Land & Cruise Tour, with Hank & Jane Landes

June 17-30, 2018; From USD \$2,952

Enjoy Alaska's vast, natural beauty by coach, train, and cruise ship. See unforgettable glaciers, mountains, and fjords. Spend 3 days in Denali National Park. Bring your kids, grandkids, or a friend.



Life & Times of Early Anabaptists in Europe: Heritage Tour, with Ayold Fanoy

June 26 – July 11, 2018
From USD \$3,595; CAD \$4,495

Explore the life and times of Anabaptist leaders Menno Simons, Conrad Grebel, and Jan Mathijsz in the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, and France. Enjoy stunning landscapes and historic architecture.



Amish European Heritage Tour, with John Sharp & Steven Yoder

July 6 – August 3, 2018
From USD \$8,995 (includes travel by ship); Land only from USD \$3,895

John Sharp and Steven Yoder will guide you on a unique journey of discovery and fellowship as you trace the Anabaptist and Amish story through Europe. All transportation in Europe is by bus, boat, or train.



Tanzania Caring, Sharing & Safari Tour for Women, with Shirley Redekop

August 4-13, 2018
From USD \$2,876; CAD \$3,595

Join women from across North America for an intergenerational women's tour with Shirley Redekop, President of Mennonite Women Canada. See local markets, tour a centre for people with disabilities, interact with local women's groups, and visit with Christians who work with local children.



Wonders of Alaska Cruise, with Rich & Gloria Bucher

August 4-15, 2018
From USD \$2,495

Explore the natural riches of Alaska with loved ones on this friends & family tour with Rich & Gloria Bucher. Choose from a variety of excursions to see wilderness landscapes and unique northern wildlife.

2018/2019 TOURS

A Rare Beauty: South Africa Tour, with Leonard & Mary Friesen

August 5-15, 2018

From USD \$3,575; CAD \$4,595

Spot the “Big Five” African animals on a game drive. Hike Table Mountain, cruise along the Cape Peninsula, visit botanical gardens, and tour Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was once imprisoned.

Newfoundland and Labrador by Land and Sea, with Mike Kroeker

August 20-31, 2018

From USD \$2,912; CAD \$3,699

This tour along Canada’s East Coast is a delightful blend of stunning scenery, wildlife viewing and historic sites.

BOOK BY END OF FEBRUARY!

Sights, Sounds & Sacred Spaces of Ireland, with Bob & Margaret Nally

September 10-21, 2018

From USD \$3,150; CAD \$4,095

Visit stone ruins of historic monasteries, see thousand-year-old pre-Christian sites with spiritual significance, and take in the natural beauty of Ireland’s rugged landscapes.

The Mennonite Story & Highlights of Ukraine, with Leonard Friesen

September 16-26, 2018

From USD \$2,796; CAD \$3,495

Don’t miss the opportunity to travel with engaging storyteller Leonard Friesen. Visit historic colonies of Molotschna and Chortitza – possibly see your ancestors’ village. Explore Odessa and Kiev. Optional post-tour Russia extension September 26 – October 2.



Paraguay & Colombia: Mennonite Stories in South America, with Jack & Irene Suderman

September 17-30, 2018

From USD \$2,795; CAD \$3,495

Enrich your understanding of Paraguay and Colombia as you see Mennonite colonies, worship in local churches, and visit with staff from Mennonite Central Committee and other non-profits.



Marvelous Music & Culture in Germany, with Rennie Regehr & Rod Zook

September 19-30, 2018

From USD \$3,072; CAD \$3,993

Take in the sights and scenery of Berlin, Leipzig and Hamburg as you survey Germany’s incredibly rich musical and cultural history. Visit museums dedicated to famous German composers, meet locals.



Delights of Italy: Gardens, Lakes, and Cuisine, with John & Kelly Schroeder

September 23-October 4, 2018

(Price TBA)

Enjoy stunning gardens and fine food from Milan to Florence.



Gems of Southeast Europe River Cruise, with Audrey Voth Petkau & Terry Petkau

October 13-20, 2018

From USD \$3,149; CAD \$3,998

Along the Danube River, stop at key cities in Hungary, tour the ancient capital of Bulgaria, and cruise through one of Europe’s natural wonders, the Iron Gate.



Ancient & Modern Splendors of Japan, with Audrey Voth Petkau

November 12-20, 2018

From USD \$3,985; CAD \$4,985

From the serene town of Takayama to the bustling metropolis of Tokyo, this cultural adventure has something for everyone.



Natural & Cultural Encounters in the Amazon & Galapagos with Jerrell Richer

February 24-March 11, 2019

From USD \$6,234; CAD \$7,920

Stay with and learn from the Corfan people deep in the rainforest. See incredible wildlife.



Discover Prague & the Mennonite Sojourn in Poland, with John Sharp

May 27-June 6, 2019

From USD \$2,885; CAD \$3,750

Investigate the lesser-known story of Mennonites in Poland. See colourful baroque buildings, Gothic churches, and visit significant sites in Poland guided by Mennonite historian John Sharp.



Bike and Boat Tour from Berlin/Spandau to Malchin

July 27-August 3, 2019

From USD \$2,420; CAD \$3,148

View Germany from a bicycle seat as you get an up-close view of the picturesque countryside and colourful cityscapes. Swim in the Baltic Sea, cruise the Peene River, and explore the island of Usedom.

Tours Under Development

Performing the Faith: Church & Theatre in London, with Allan & Marilyn Rudy-Froese, July 2019

Iceland, Summer 2019

India, 2019

Oberammergau Passion Play, 2020



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