



TourMagination

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Bethany Community Church European Anabaptist Heritage Tour

May 29 – June 11, 2022

Leaders: John Sharp & Larry Shantz



Innsbruck, Austria.



Zaanse Schans, Netherlands. Photo credit: Daryl Mitchell

This European heritage tour traces the Anabaptist/Mennonite story through the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. Visits to significant sites will bring to life the stories of Reformation and Anabaptist leaders. Other tour highlights include: a cruise on the Rhine River, climbing into the foothills of the Swiss Alps to the Cave of the Anabaptists, visiting Trachselwald Castle, riding a cog-rail train up a mountain, visiting a semi-communal Mennonite village, and attending the once-in-ten-years Oberammergau Passion Play. Historian and experienced tour leader John Sharp will share insights as you travel in these beautiful countries that were so important to our Anabaptist ancestors. Larry Shantz will handle logistics and community.

Itinerary

Monday, May 30 Amsterdam, Netherlands

Arrive in Amsterdam and meet your fellow travellers. Visit Zaanse Schans, a historic Dutch village with traditional houses, working windmills, and artisans crafting things like wooden shoes and cheese. Finish the day's explorations with a visit to Asperen to hear the story of Dirk Willems.

Tuesday, May 31 Amsterdam, Netherlands

Following an early breakfast, tour the impressive Aalsmeer flower auction where 20 million flowers from around the world are traded daily! Spend the rest of the day in Amsterdam, learning more about Mennonite history in the area, including a leisurely tour of Amsterdam's canals by river boat.

Wednesday, June 1 Friesland, Netherlands

Depart early in the morning to visit Giethoorn, a picturesque village with few cars and many boats. Arrive in Friesland to learn about the Menno Simons story. Visit the hidden church at Pingjum, and the Menno Simons monument at Witmarsum—the village where he was born. Tonight, have the

opportunity to enjoy the warm hospitality of a local family.

Thursday, June 2 Köln, Germany

Travel to Münster, Germany. Take a walking tour to gain greater insight into a darker time in Anabaptist history. Hear about the violent uprising of radical Anabaptists during the Münster Rebellion. Then continue to Köln (Cologne). Enjoy a stroll along the Rhine river to visit the twin-towered Gothic Cathedral, as time permits.

Friday, June 3 Rottenburg, Germany

Begin the day with a relaxing cruise on the Rhine River, while enjoying the beautiful scenery. In the Palatinate region, visit the semi-communal Mennonite village of Weierhof, including Germany's only major Mennonite archives. Continue to Rottenburg and explore as time permits.

Saturday, June 4 Oberammergau, Germany

Arrive in Oberammergau, home of the famous Passion Play! Almost 400 years ago, the villagers promised God that if he would spare them from the

bubonic plague ravaging their region, they would depict Jesus's life and death in a play. The villagers performed their first re-enactment of the Passion of Christ in 1634 to fulfill their vow. This morning, explore the village, and perhaps choose to shop for clocks. In the afternoon and evening, watch the renowned play, with about half of the 5,400 residents of Oberammergau participating as actors, singers, instrumentalists, and stage technicians. The play uses Old and New Testament scenes woven together to tell the story of Jesus.

Sunday, June 5 Innsbruck, Austria

Travel to Austria and learn about the Jacob Hutter Anabaptist story. Also, enjoy apple strudel on the famous Maria Theresien Strasse. Visit Hutter Park to see a memorial to Anabaptist martyrs. Tonight, attend a Tyrolean folk show to experience authentic local music, dancing, and more.

Monday, June 6 Bern, Switzerland

Travel to Bern stopping in Lucerne on the way. Enjoy lunch and a stroll on the Kapellbrücke, a covered, wooden bridge spanning the Reuss River. Take a walking tour of Bern, seeing many key sites on the way.

Tuesday, June 7 Bern, Switzerland

Visit more important sites in the Emmental region, including Trachselwald Castle, a fortress once used to imprison Anabaptists. As time permits visit the cemetery and Reformed church at Steffisburg, the Langnau Mennonite Church, the Würzbrunnen

Fare per person (CAD):

Double Occupancy \$5,530 per person
Single Supplement \$898

Fare includes:

- Hotel accommodations
- Coach transportation within the tour
- Arrival/Departure group transfers
- Oberammergau Passion Play 1-night package
- All breakfasts & dinners, water with dinner
- Expert tour leader & storyteller
- Whisper headsets throughout tour
- All entrance fees included in itinerary
- Gratuities and donations

Fare excludes:

- International airfare
- Airport transfers if separate from group
- Lunches, beverages with meals
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

Reformed church and other Anabaptist sites. Then climb a freestanding tower in a forest to observe a 360° view of the Alps.

Wednesday, June 8 Bern, Switzerland

Begin today with a cog rail train ride up the Rothorn mountain for fabulous views of the Alps. This afternoon spend time relaxing on your own in Bern.

Thursday, June 9 Zurich, Switzerland

Travel to Zurich, passing through stunning mountain passes on the way. In Zurich, take an Anabaptist walking tour of sites related to the birth of Anabaptism in 1525. Visit the church in Erlenbach where Jakob Amman was baptized.

Friday, June 10 Zurich, Switzerland

Take a wagon ride up the Anabaptist climb (Täuferstieg) near Schleithem where the first Anabaptist confession was written in 1527. Reflect at a unique monument placed in 2004 by Reformed Church leaders as an act of repentance and reconciliation between Anabaptists and their former persecutors. Next, visit a former secret worship site, the Anabaptist Cave at Bärenswil, for worship and reflection.

Saturday, June 11 Depart from Zurich

Say farewell to your fellow travellers and depart for home from Zurich with new insights into your Anabaptist heritage.

Insurance

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

Payments

Rates shown are in effect April 2021. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

Contact

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