

# Reformed Christianity: A Tour of Its Roots

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**Germany - Switzerland - France - The Netherlands**

**25 June - 7 July 2018**

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**The roots of Reformed Christianity lay in northwestern Europe in the sixteenth century. From those roots sprang the various Christian bodies that make up the World Communion of Reformed Churches today, home to more**

than eighty million Christians, including those in The Reformed Church, The Presbyterian Church, and the United Church of Christ.

This thirteen-day tour will explore the origins of Reformed Christianity, beginning with the Reformation of the church ignited by Martin Luther in Germany. We will follow the spread of that Reformation through the Switzerland of Calvin, Beza, Zwingli, and others, and continue to trace its path through France and the Netherlands, where it united with the English Reformation in the Pilgrims, the group of Anglican Puritans who emigrated to America in 1620, bringing Reformed Christianity to the New World.

Along the way, we will get to enjoy some of Europe's most beautiful and historic sites, including Cologne Cathedral, Lake Constance, and a Rhine River cruise. This tour is a great opportunity to see Europe worry-free and with congenial companions.

**Our tour package includes:**

- 13 days luxury coach hire with air conditioning and restroom, starting with our arrival at Berlin Airport and ending with our being delivered to Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, at the end of the tour
- 12 nights accommodation in twin-bedded rooms in three- and four-star hotels, with buffet breakfast each day
- 10 evening meals, mainly in our hotels, but sometimes in nearby restaurants, allowing us to explore our environs on our own when we have a second night in the same location
- entrance to all venues and tours, such as Wittenburg Castle Church, the Luther House, the Melancthon House, the Gutenberg Museum, Cologne Cathedral, and others, with English speaking guides, as detailed in the following itinerary

**Our tour package does not include:**

- Round-trip flights from and to the USA (we are looking for the best group-rate tickets)
- lunches
- two dinners
- baggage handling at hotels
- gratuities for hotels, tour guides, and coach drivers
- travel insurance, which is required before departure from the US.

## **PROPOSED ITINERARY**



**PLEASE NOTE:** The following is a detailed outline of our proposed tour but, as you may well appreciate, the itinerary, timings, and hotels could be subject to change owing to unforeseen circumstances. The tour guide and operators will make every effort to honor this itinerary.

**DAY 1: MONDAY 25 JUNE**

Our group departs on a very early (12:30 a.m.) WOW Airlines flight from Cleveland to Berlin via Amsterdam, arriving in Berlin at approximately 8:30 p.m. local time, where we will be met by Laraine and Ashley Tresser, of Gemmaway Travel. Late-night snack on our own at Amsterdam airport, before our private coach will take us to our hotel.

**OVERNIGHT BERLIN**

**DAY 2: TUESDAY 26 JUNE**

After breakfast at our hotel, we are free to adjust to our new time zone and explore Berlin, one of Europe's destination cities. There is an option in the morning to join one of the 'Free walking tours' (the tour is free but you are expected to tip the guide at the end). Late afternoon (4.30-5.00 p.m.) the coach departs for Dessau, very close to Wittenberg, where we will enjoy dinner at our hotel and have the chance to explore the city most closely associated with Walter Gropius (1883-1969) and the Bauhaus school of architecture.



Berlin's Brandenburg Gate

**OVERNIGHT DESSAU WITH INCLUDED DINNER**



Doors of the Castle Church

**DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE**

After breakfast at our hotel, we have an early departure (7:30 a.m.) for Wittenberg where, on arrival, a local guide will meet us for a half-day tour, which will include entry into the Luther House, Castle Church, St. Mary's Church, and the Melancthon House. After a quick sandwich lunch on our own, we will depart at 1:15 p.m. for Eisleben. In Eisleben we have included visits to Luther's Birth House and Luther's Death House.

**OVERNIGHT ERFURT WITH INCLUDED DINNER IN EISLEBEN OR ERFURT**

**DAY 4: THURSDAY 28 JUNE**

After breakfast at our hotel, we will depart at 8:30 a.m. for Erfurt, where our local guide will show us the Augustinian Monastery where Luther was a monk from 1505 to 1511, the Mariendom Cathedral, and some time for lunch before departing for Eisenach at approximately 1:45 p.m., where a half-day tour with a local guide is included. Time permitting, we will visit the

**Bach House, a museum dedicated to the great composer Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), and Wartburg Castle, where Luther translated the New Testament from Greek into German in eleven weeks.**

**OVERNIGHT IN EISENACH OR VERY NEARBY WITH INCLUDED DINNER**

**DAY 5: FRIDAY 29 JUNE**

**Today we take a break from our Reformation studies and enjoy a lovely Rhine River cruise. After breakfast at our hotel, an early departure (8.15 a.m.) will launch us on the coach leg of our journey, which takes us past Koblenz (where we will stop for lunch), and a scenic drive onto Boppard, where we board our Rhine cruiser. The trip takes just over four hours to Rudesheim,**



**and from here it is only a short drive to Mainz, home of Johann Gutenberg, whose invention of movable type was a technological innovation that was crucial to the spread of Reformation ideas.**

**OVERNIGHT IN MAINZ WITH INCLUDED DINNER**

**DAY 6: SATURDAY 30 JUNE**

**After breakfast at our hotel, we visit the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz, before continuing on to Worms where we will visit the Worms Museum, including Luther's room. It was at the Diet of Worms in 1521 that Luther was officially declared a heretic and his writings banned. Free time for lunch in Worms, before driving on to Konstanz where we are based for two nights.**

**OVERNIGHT IN KONSTANZ WITH INCLUDED DINNER**

**DAY 7: SUNDAY 1 JULY**

**After breakfast at our hotel, today is a free day to explore this lovely lakeside city where, in July 1415, the Czech church reformer Jan Hus was executed for espousing ideas that led directly to the Reformation of a century later. An optional walking tour can be arranged.**

**OVERNIGHT IN KONSTANZ (DINNER NOT INCLUDED)**

**DAY 8: MONDAY 2 JULY**

**After breakfast at our hotel, we depart for a short drive to our hotel in Zurich, where we will be met by our local guide who will take us on a two-hour Reformation walking tour. The rest of the day is free to explore this interesting and cosmopolitan city.**

**OVERNIGHT IN ZURICH WITH INCLUDED DINNER**

**DAY 9: TUESDAY 3 JULY**

**After breakfast at our hotel, we have an early departure at 8.15 a.m. for our hotel in Geneva, the city of the Reformers, where we will be met by our local guide for a half-day afternoon**

sightseeing tour, which will include entrance into the Reformation Museum and the Reformation Wall, which commemorates in bas relief statues ten prominent leaders of the Reformed tradition, including Roger Williams of Rhode Island. The rest of the day is free.

**OVERNIGHT IN GENEVA WITH INCLUDED DINNER**

**DAY 10: WEDNESDAY 4 JULY**

After breakfast at our hotel we depart at 8.30 a.m. for Basel, whose book printing industry played a major role in the dissemination of Reformation and Reformed thinking. After arrival in the hotel, we have time for lunch before meeting our local guide for a two-hour Reformation walking tour. The rest of the day is free.

**OVERNIGHT IN BASEL WITH INCLUDED DINNER**

**DAY 11: THURSDAY 5 JULY**

After breakfast at our hotel, an early departure at 8.15 a.m. for our drive to Strasbourg, home to many Protestant refugees from France. We will have with some free time and lunch in this World Heritage site before continuing on to our hotel in Cologne.

**OVERNIGHT IN COLOGNE WITH INCLUDED DINNER**

**DAY 12: FRIDAY 6 JULY**

After breakfast at our hotel, we depart at 8.30 a.m. for our tour of Cologne Cathedral, one of the most magnificent religious structures in the world and home to the Grand Reliquary of the Magi, before leaving Germany and driving to Leiden (Holland)



Magi Reliquary in Cologne Cathedral

with a stop en route for lunch. In Leiden we will have a little time to explore this Dutch town and include a visit to the American Pilgrim Museum, before continuing on to our hotel in The Hague.

**OVERNIGHT IN THE HAGUE WITH INCLUDED DINNER**

**DAY 13: SATURDAY 7 JULY**

After breakfast at our hotel, we have the morning free to explore the Hague, after which our coach will transfer us as a group to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (time to be announced) for our 6:30 p.m. overnight flight back to Cleveland.



## **PRICES AND DEADLINES**

**For a group of sixteen to twenty travelers, the cost for this thirteen-day tour is \$4,293 per person, double occupancy, or \$5,153 for those wishing to book a single room. Including airfare, we hope to keep the total price to \$5,300-\$5,500 per person, double occupancy (approximately \$6,200-\$6,400 single occupancy).**

### **[SIGN UP](#)**

**You can use the link above to reserve one of the twenty places in this tour. The signup deadline is Friday, Oct. 20, 2017. This registration requires no payment and is not binding; however, only the first twenty people who register can be guaranteed a place in the tour.**

**Other important deadlines:**

- **non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person due by Monday, Nov. 20, 2017**
- **50% of the tour balance (\$1,947 or \$2,377) due by January 12, 2018**
- **remaining tour balance by April 2, 2018.**

**Arrangements for paying for airfare will be made separately from the tour.**

**Checks should be made payable to "Faith Reformed Christianity Tour" and may be mailed to**

**Reformed Christianity Tour  
Faith United Church of Christ  
575 Richmond Road  
Richmond Heights, OH 44143-2937.**