

Germany & Prague: A Pilgrimage of Faith, Heritage & Music

October 23 - November 3, 2015
All Saints Lutheran Church



Hosted by Minister of Music
Jim Hild and Bonnie Hild

Highlights and Inclusions

Experience the spiritual enrichment and fellowship traveling in a community under the leadership and hospitality of Jim and Bonnie Hild.



Be inspired visiting two of Europe's great capital cities, Prague and Berlin, along with exploring the culture, history, architecture and music traditions in Dresden, Leipzig, Erfurt, Eisenach and Wittenberg with a professional tour manager throughout.



Discover the influence of prominent musicians and composers of the day including Antonin Dvorak, Wolfgang Mozart, Heinrich Schutz, J.S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Johann Walter and Paul Gerhardt.



Learn about the culture and people which gave rise to a tradition of reformers of church and government including the Peaceful Revolution of the late 20th century.

Reformation Festival

On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This date nearly 500 years ago is recognized as the beginning of the Reformation. On Reformation Day each year, Christians from around the world travel to Wittenberg to celebrate this momentous event in the city where it happened. In the Old Town the day begins with worship services in one of the historic churches. Other activities include exhibitions, food booths, a parade and a Renaissance music festival. Street performers, musicians, artisans and travelling folk from the Middle Ages gather in the market square to recreate life as it was during Luther's time.

For more information about Wittenberg:

<http://www.lutherstadt-wittenberg.de/home.html?L=1>

Travel on flights from Minneapolis/St. Paul to Prague and return from Berlin. Stay in select accommodations for 10 nights, based on sharing a room in hotels described in the itinerary.



Journey in comfort in a private, deluxe motorcoach for all transfers and touring along with handling of one piece of baggage at hotels.



Savor the local cuisine with 15 included meals of buffet breakfast daily and five dinners.



Enjoy the ease of included entrance fees for inside visits and activities along with gratuities for tour manager, local guides, motorcoach drivers and hotel/restaurant staff.



Be insured with group travel insurance from Cultural Insurance Services International.

Your Program Hosts

Jim and Bonnie Hild host this custom-designed travel experience. Jim has served as a minister of music for the past 36 years and is currently the Minister of Music at All Saints Lutheran Church in Minnetonka, Minnesota. Bonnie is a retired educator and curriculum coordinator. She has also served in children's ministry in the Lutheran church. Jim and Bonnie have traveled extensively and most recently led tours of Germany's Martin Luther sights and the Oberammergau Passion Play. Being musicians they bring in-depth knowledge of the music that has played a pivotal role in our Lutheran heritage. They hope you will enjoy hearing their voices in the churches visited and are planning many memorable and enriching experiences along the way.

Customized Program Itinerary

Friday, October 23 MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL DEPARTURE. Depart on Delta Air Lines flight for Amsterdam.

Saturday, October 24 PRAGUE ARRIVAL. Connecting flight in Amsterdam for Prague where upon morning arrival receive a welcome from an awaiting tour manager and private motorcoach at the airport. Enjoy an introductory tour discovering some of the city's landmarks en route to hotel. Proceed to [NH Hotel Prague](#) for check-in with time to get settled before dinner. **(D)**

Sunday, October 25 PRAGUE. Begin an exploration of Prague this morning with a local guide at the imposing Prague Castle featuring visits inside the impressive St. Vitus Cathedral and Vladislav Hall. This afternoon visit the Old Town on a walking tour passing Our Lady Before the Tyn Church, the leading church of the Hussite movement for 200 years after Jan Hus' death. Possibility of a short devotion at Bethlehem Chapel where Hus preached his ministry of reform. A church reformer 100 years before Martin Luther, Hus is a national hero in the Czech Republic. See Wenceslaus Square where protests occurred during the Velvet Revolution and walk across the colorful Charles Bridge. Evening at leisure to meander Prague's narrow streets, scenic bridges and vibrant squares. **(B)**

Monday, October 26 PRAGUE. This morning with a local guide discover Prague's Jewish Quarter to learn about the community established here in the 12th century which grew to 40,000 by the start of WWII. This afternoon enjoy a boat cruise on the Vltava River. Some free time in the late afternoon and into the evening. Dinner on own to sample the local cuisine. Overnight at hotel in Prague. **(B)**

Tuesday, October 27 PRAGUE - DRESDEN. Depart Prague by private motorcoach traveling into the Czech countryside for the border with Germany and on to Dresden. Perhaps time for a brief scenic photo stop in Saxony en route. Enjoy an introductory drive through the historic city of Dresden located on the Elbe River. An inspiring visit of the Frauenkirche, also known as the Church of Our Lady Lutheran, which remained in ruins from the WWII bombing for decades. Hear about the restoration of the church just completed in 2005. Perhaps attend an organ recital at the church, on most days at noon but subject to schedule. Check-in at Dresden [Maritim Hotel Dresden](#) for dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

Wednesday, October 28 DRESDEN - ERFURT. Leave Dresden this morning traveling west into the Thüringen region of Germany. Reflective visit to Buchenwald, the former concentration camp, now a memorial and museum. Among the quarter million prisoners were Lutheran pastors Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Paul Schneider. (An option to visit Weimar for free time during the visit to Buchenwald is offered.) Continue to the city of Erfurt, one of the best preserved medieval cities in Germany with numerous towers, spires and bridges. After Martin Luther finished his studies at Erfurt University, he entered the Augustinian monastery and lived here for five years. Walking tour of the historic center and check-in at [Radisson Blu Erfurt](#) for dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

Thursday, October 29 ERFURT (Eisenach Visit). Travel to nearby Eisenach, about an hour's drive. Explore the Wartburg where Luther went into seclusion after being excommunicated and translated the New Testament into

German. Lunch on own in Eisenach's charming town square. Afternoon walking tour of the historic town center including a visit to the Bachhaus. The Bach family influenced the city's church music for over 100 years before J.S. Bach's birth in 1685. Explore the exhibits of pictures, documents and instruments from the life of J.S. Bach and his family and enjoy a 20-minute recital of Bach music. Return to Erfurt for dinner on own to try a local restaurant. **(B)**

Friday, October 30 ERFURT - LEIPZIG - WITTENBERG. Leave Erfurt this morning for Leipzig and a memorable visit to St. Thomas Church where Johann Sebastian Bach was cantor for 27 years. Meet with a local Lutheran pastor who shares the moving story of how the Peaceful Revolution began here in 1989. Some free time for lunch as well as individual exploration before an inspiring experience attending the Friday Motet (6:00pm) at St. Thomas Church. Evening drive to Wittenberg for check-in at [Luther Hotel](#) for a late dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

Saturday, October 31 WITTENBERG (Reformation Festival). Wittenberg is where Martin Luther worked and lived for some 36 years and today the city is alive with Renaissance spirit celebrating nearly 500 years of Lutheran heritage. English morning worship service at Castle Church (if renovation completed), where Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door in October 31, 1517 is now celebrated annually on this day. Free day to choose among Reformation Day activities including the food booths, a parade and activities typical of Luther's time. Option to attend a classical concert at the Town Church and dinner on own. Overnight in Wittenberg. **(B)**

Sunday, November 1 WITTENBERG - BERLIN. Morning worship service at Corpus Christi Chapel, adjacent to Town Church followed by a visit of the Lutherhaus, where Martin and Katie Luther lived, now a museum of Reformation artifacts. Leave Wittenberg on a 90-minute drive to Berlin. Orientation and panoramic drive through the city including the Reichstag building and stops at the Brandenburg Gate and the wall museum at Checkpoint Charlie. Check-in at [Maritim Hotel Berlin](#) followed by a final group dinner this evening at a local restaurant. Overnight in Berlin. **(B,D)**

Monday, November 2 BERLIN. Visit the Museum at Bernauer Strasse, where a church was formerly located in the "no-man's-land" between East and West Berlin. End at Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church bombed during WWII leaving only the west tower standing. Attend the noon-time organ recital (subject to schedule) at Berlin's Dome Church before free time this afternoon and into the evening for individual exploration. Dinner on own to enjoy cuisine of your choosing at one of Berlin's restaurants. Overnight in Berlin. **(B)**

Tuesday November 3 BERLIN DEPARTURE. Transfer to Berlin airport for flight to Amsterdam connecting to a Delta Air Lines flight arriving late afternoon in Minneapolis-St. Paul. **(B)**

Included meals: B=breakfast, D=dinner

*Itinerary subject to change due to local scheduling.
Click hotel names in blue for website link.*

Travel Information, Documentation and Insurance

U.S. citizens need a passport valid at least six months beyond the tour return date. Passport applications are available at http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html. No vaccinations or visa is required for U.S. citizens to enter the Czech Republic or Germany.

Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for their own passport and any visa requirements for the countries visited and need to travel with a permanent resident card or other proper documentation to enter back into the U.S. Without proper documents for any part of this program, entry could be denied at participant's expense. For international travel information including country specific background, travel alerts and travel warnings, refer to the website of the U.S. State Department: www.travel.state.gov/content/travel/english.html.

This travel program requires walking on uneven surfaces, steps along with inclines for significant distances and periods during some days in the program itinerary. Cities in Europe have many large pedestrian zones and motorcoach parking a distance from sites, museums and churches requiring a good amount of walking. Consult with Seminars International or your tour leadership if you have concerns or questions about the amount and level of walking in order to fully participate in the travel program.

Websites for additional travel and destination information:

German National Tourist Board

<http://www.germany.travel/en/index.html>

Prague City Tourism <http://www.prague.eu/en>

CISI group insurance included in program cost covers evacuation and major medical as described under Statement of Conditions. **Trip cancellation insurance and coverage for preexisting medical conditions is not included.** Travel cancellation is highly recommended for health situations causing a cancellation or interruption. Travel Guard is recommended as a reliable provider of travel cancellation insurance. Access information on insurance coverage options and premium costs using this link to [Travel Guard](#) and completing a simple worksheet with your own personal details. For specific questions about coverage, call Travel Guard at 800.826.4919 and use agency referral number 14847980 for Seminars International. Purchasing travel insurance within 15 days of enrollment may waive pre-existing medical conditions. Thoroughly read the coverage to ensure it meets your individual needs.

Further Information

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Registration

For registration confirmation, you must complete the enrollment form **and** make deposit payment. You need your passport details (unless you are in the process of applying for a passport) and information for an emergency contact to properly complete the enrollment form.

Step 1: \$600 deposit due immediately to secure registration, based on availability. Make check payable to Seminars International Inc. and mail to Seminars International Inc., 55 E. Monroe, Suite 2870, Chicago, IL 60603. Please add **Tour# 4570** to the memo portion of your check.

Payment is available by credit card at <http://www.semint.com/payments.html> or by calling 800.541.7506.

A 3% service fee is added to all credit card transactions.

Step 2: If this is an electronic brochure, please click below to fill out the enrollment form per person. Your **T# is 4570**. Deposit payment must arrive within 10 days of completing enrollment form to maintain your registration. A letter of confirmation is emailed when deposit is received. The enrollment form may also be provided by contacting Jeaneen Lincoln at 800-541-7506 or jeaneen@semint.com.

Passport Name: Check your passport and complete this form with your **full name exactly as it appears on your passport**. Include your middle name or initial plus any suffix (Jr., Sr., or III) exactly as printed on your passport. If you do not have a passport at this time, please enter your name exactly as it will appear on the passport. Name change fees apply if you submit incorrect information.

**If this is an electronic brochure,
click here for link to enrollment form.**

Program Cost

\$4,520 from Minneapolis/St. Paul

Supplement for single accommodations - \$600

Limited availability of single accommodations.

This comprehensive cost includes airline ticket taxes/fuel surcharge of \$692, gratuities of \$115 and CISI group insurance (approx. \$75 value). These costs are often not packaged into other travel programs and instead mentioned as additional costs in the fine print.

Program cost based on a group size of 27 and may increase if group size is smaller.



SEMINARS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

The Educational Travel Architects

Seminars International
55 E. Monroe Street, Suite 2870
Chicago, IL 60603-5713
312-332-7027 800-541-7506
travel@semint.com

Statement of Conditions

Program cost and minimum number group size: \$4,520, based on a group size of 27 participants. \$4,750, based on a group size of 22-26 participants. Program cost may increase if group size is smaller. Program cost based on exchange rates and tariffs in effect as of December 16, 2014 subject to change in the event that there is a fluctuation of more than 4%.

Air transportation included in cost: From Minneapolis/St. Paul to Prague, returning from Berlin based on currently confirmed airfare by Delta Air Lines, subject to restrictions and cancellation penalties by the airline; current taxes and surcharges of \$692 are included and subject to change until ticketed.

Surface travel and transfers: By private deluxe motorcoach for all transfers and touring plus handling of one piece of baggage at in/out of hotels.

Accommodations and meals: Shared occupancy at hotels as indicated or similar with buffet breakfast and five dinners. Single accommodations supplement is \$600. Upon request, Seminars International Inc. and tour host assists participants traveling as a single to arrange for a roommate. If no roommate is secured, the single supplement is assessed.

Program arrangements: Professional, licensed English-speaking tour manager throughout itinerary in the Czech Republic and Germany and local guides in Prague, Dresden, Buchenwald, Erfurt, Eisenach, Leipzig and Berlin as described in itinerary; inside visits including entrance fees or donations as required for entry; honorarium for speaker in Leipzig; gratuities for tour manager, motorcoach drivers, local guides and hotel/restaurant wait staff. Note: Participants with special needs may incur surcharges for additional services. Handicap accessibility varies significantly from country to country.

Deposit and payment schedule: \$600 per participant due to secure enrollment no later than **June 25, 2015 as long space is available.** A waiting list is maintained when registrations exceed 30. **Full payment due August 17, 2015.** Upon receipt of enrollment and deposit, a confirmation of registration is sent by Seminars International, Inc. Any payments by credit card incur an additional 3% to cover merchant fees. Invoices are sent in advance of full payment.

Group insurance: The following Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) group insurance coverage is included for each participant. **This insurance does not include individual trip cancellation and pre-existing medical condition coverage and consideration for additional insurance is highly recommended.**

Schedule of Benefits Policy # GLM N0496486A

Coverage and Services Maximum Limits:

- Accidental Death and Dismemberment Per Insured Person \$10,000
- Medical expenses (per Covered Accident or Sickness):
 - Deductible zero
 - Basic Medical \$100,000 at 100%
 - Home Country Coverage Limit \$10,000
 - Emergency Medical Reunion \$3,000
 - Team Assist Plan (TAP): 24/7 medical, travel, technical assistance
 - Emergency Medical Evacuation 100% of Covered Expenses
 - Repatriation/Return of Mortal Remains 100% of Covered Expenses
 - Security Evacuation (Comprehensive) \$100,000

Refer to <http://www.semint.com/pdf/CISI.pdf> for further information regarding your group plan.

Cancellation and refund policy: Should cancellation occur prior to 120 days before departure, the initial deposit will be refunded less a \$100 fee per person. The following specified costs are non-refundable: 120-90 days: 50% of deposit; 89-60 days: full deposit; 59-46 days: 50% of program price; 45-15 days: recoverable costs

only (possible forfeiture of entire program cost); **cancellations received less than 15 days from departure will receive no refund. Cancellations must be submitted in writing; the date such notification is received by Seminars International, Inc. is the cancellation date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.**

Exclusions: Items not listed above, including but not limited to meals other than those indicated; beverages except at breakfast; baggage handling at airports, optional entertainment and excursions; any baggage charges; all personal items, such as telephone calls, laundry expenses, individual room service; cancellation insurance; non tour related gratuities; departure taxes not included on air ticket; passport fees; increases in air ticket taxes or fuel surcharge; increases in VAT or any city taxes.

Management and responsibility: Seminars International (SI) acts only as an agent and neither SI nor any employee or appointee nor any other person, party or organization or agency collaborating with it is or shall be responsible or liable for any injury or loss, accident or damage, delay or deviation or curtailment, howsoever caused or arising or the consequences thereof, which may occur during any part of the travel or program or during such free time as the members may elect to spend independently on program. The airlines or commercial carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any acts, omissions, or events during the time the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances. The passage contracts in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, will constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this program and/or passenger.

Deviations policy: Some participants may wish to extend their stay, originate or deplane from different cities or purchase the land only program. Every effort will be made to assist program participants who require deviations in the group air and/or land arrangements for a \$100 per person service charge, plus any additional charges levied by the airline or other supplier. Once the deviation has been booked, any changes may incur additional costs. Please note you are purchasing a group program and any deviation from the program arrangements requires staff time not calculated in the program cost. No refund may be granted to participants who wish to omit portions of the itinerary. **All deviation requests must be submitted in writing no later than July 16, 2015.**

Seminars International

Seminars International, with over four decades of experience crafting faith-based, educational, performing arts and special interest programs on seven continents, is proud of a proven record in providing attention to detail, safety, security, creativity and value. Our services allow faith-based leaders to focus on the spiritual and educational goals of their program while we take care of the travel logistics, providing peace of mind and 24/7 support from beginning to end.

Custom Design - We design customized faith-based international programs sensitive to the needs and interests of a group while focusing on value and affordability.

Pre-Departure - Our services include customized participant travel e-packets and tour literature focusing on being prepared and responsible travelers.

While Abroad - Our network of on-the-ground international partners, along with our Chicago-based team, stand ready 24/7 to support and assistance while on tour, particularly with an emergency situation.

Program Evaluation - Upon return we invite you to complete an evaluation to share feedback on how we may enhance your experience in the future.