

## Pre-Tour to: Amsterdam

### DAY 1: Saturday: USA - AMSTERDAM

Today we will meet at JFK for our flight to Amsterdam via widebody air craft. Dinner and breakfast will be on board the flight.

### DAY 2: Sunday: AMSTERDAM

We arrive in Amsterdam today and upon arrival we are met and enjoy a panoramic city tour of Amsterdam before being transferred to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 3: Monday: AMSTERDAM

After breakfast we will board our bus and begin our tour of Amsterdam. On this tour we pass the Royal Palace on the dam, the 560 year old "New Church," a "Skinny" Bridge spanning the Amstel River, the Mint Tower, a source of coins in the late 1600's, the venerable Portuguese Synagogue and Rembrandt's House. Then we see his paintings including the Night Watch and those of other Dutch Master's at the **Rijksmuseum**, Holland's National Art Gallery. This afternoon we enjoy a **cruise** on Amsterdam's Canals and while gliding through the old center of the city and out into the bustling harbour, we can review Amsterdam's history in comfort. The waterways are lined with Merchants mansions and carillon crowned churches, gabled buildings and wooden shuttered warehouses dating back to the 16, 17, and 18th centuries. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Only for the May groups:** In the afternoon excursion to **Keukenhof** to visit the world's largest bulb flower park.

### DAY 4: Tuesday: COLOGNE - FRANKFURT

Today we drive south through the windmill dotted Dutch lowlands. Cross into Germany through the Ruhr Valley to **Cologne**, the Rhineland capital. This afternoon we visit the magnificent Gothic Cathedral with its 515 ft. twin towers, five naves, stained glass windows, shrine of the Three Holy Kings, and fabulous treasures of the Domschatzkammer. The church is one of the largest and most beautiful in the world. Continue to **Frankfurt** to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

## Martin Luther Tour Begins Here:

### DAY 1: Monday: USA - AMSTERDAM

Today we will meet at JFK for our flight to Amsterdam via widebody air craft. Dinner and breakfast will be on board the flight.

### DAY 2: Tuesday: ARRIVAL IN FRANKFURT

We will arrive in Frankfurt and upon arrival we are met and transferred to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 3: Wednesday: RHINE RIVER CRUISE - MAINZ - WORMS

Our journey begins with a relaxing sightseeing **cruise** along the Rhine River, one of the most picturesque stretches of this majestic waterway. We sail past magnificent castles and the famous Loreley rock. We continue to **Mainz**: We visit the birthplace of printing, the **Gutenberg Museum**: the evolution of printing is documented, and Gutenberg's first Bible is on display, also the world's tiniest Bible. **Jon Gooseflesh**, better known as Johannes Gutenberg is considered to be the most important individual contributor of the Second Millennium. Then we tour **St. Martin's Cathedral**, built in the 8<sup>th</sup> century and towering in all its might and grandeur the city. Seven king's coronations took place in the course of the centuries in the Mainz cathedral. Then on to **Worms** for overnight and dinner.

### DAY 4: Thursday: WORMS – SPEYER - HEIDELBERG

**Worms**: thought to be one of the oldest towns in Germany, where Luther was summoned in 1521 to appear before an Imperial Diet to justify his conduct. We visit the world's largest **Memorial to the Reformation** and the **Church of the Holy Trinity**, Europe's oldest Jewish cemetery, the **Holy Sands** and **St. Peter's Cathedral**, located on the highest elevation of the inner city and one of the most exquisite

examples of Romanesque architecture. We board the coach for **Speyer** and visit the **Cathedral**, the biggest historic architectural monument of its time and burial place of the Salian emperors. It is supposed to be the masterpiece of Romanesque architecture in Germany. We continue to the ruins of the **Speyer synagogue** which are the oldest visible remains of a synagogue in Central Europe and the **Mikwe**, established in 1104. In the Middle Ages the rabbis of Speyer, along with their colleagues from Mainz and Worms were already counted among the religious authorities in all middle Europe. Then on to **Heidelberg**, a gorgeous town on the Neckar River, where romanticism is both past and present. Our walking tour includes the Old Town, the famous Stone Bridge over the Neckar River, the Heidelberg Castle (where the Heidelberg Confession was written in 1653), the Castle Church, German Apothecary Museum, and the Church of the Holy Ghost. We return to our hotel.

### DAY 5: Friday: WORMS - EISENACH - ERFURT

Following breakfast we drive into Lutherland to **Eisenach** and **Wartburg Castle**: We tour the Palas (Great Hall), Art exhibition, the Elizabeth Hallway and the Luther Room where "Junker Jörg" (the Knight George) translated the New Testament into German. Then on to **St. George's Church** where Saint Elisabeth was married and J.S. Bach baptized, **Luther House** where Luther lived as a student with the Cotta family from 1498-1501. We board the coach for our drive to **Erfurt** for overnight and dinner.

### DAY 6: Saturday: ERFURT – EISLEBEN - LEIPZIG

This morning we explore **Erfurt** and visit the **Augustinian Monastery** with its famous dome and stained-glass window choir: Luther, student of law, entered as a novice in 1505 and took his vows as a monk in 1507. We tour the city with **Fish Market**, **Town hall** and **Merchant's Bridge**, Merchant's Church and the **Luther Memorial**. Then on to **Eisleben**, where Luther was born

in 1483 and died in 1546. We visit the **St. Andrew's Church** (Luther held his last sermons here) and **Luther's "Death House"**, walk across the Market Square through the old town to his **"Birth House"** and to the **Church of St. Peter and St. Paul**, where Luther was baptized. We continue to **Leipzig** for overnight and dinner:

#### **DAY 7: Sunday: LEIPZIG - WITTENBERG**

In the morning we tour the city on foot highlighting the Opera House, Gewandhaus Concert Hall, Moritzbastei, St. Nicolaus Church, Naschmarkt and Goethe Memorial, St. Thomas Church where J.S. Bach worked and now rests, and the Völkerschlachtdenkmal (Monument of the battle of the Nations).

After lunch on our own we proceed for **Wittenberg**, the main workplace of Martin Luther from 1508. We visit **Luther Hall**, formerly an Augustinian monastery and from 1525 domicile of Luther's family and nowadays the largest Reformation history museum in the world. We also visit the **"Schlosskirche"** (all Saints Church) where Luther posted his 95 theses on the Castle Church doors sparking the beginning of the Reformation and sepulcher of Luther and his fellow reformer Philipp Melancthon, tour **St. Mary's Church** where Luther did the majority of his preaching and visit the **Melancthon House**, renovated for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth and offering a rare look into the life and works of this important humanist and reformer. We check in to our hotel for overnight and dinner.

#### **DAY 8: Monday: POTSDAM - BERLIN**

On the way to Berlin we stop in **Potsdam** and tour **Sansouci Palace and Park**, built by Frederick of Prussia in 1745. Upon arrival in Berlin we explore the city on a sightseeing tour by bus featuring **Charlottenburg Palace** (from outside), the **Reichstag** (Parliament), the **Brandenburger Tor**, the **Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church** and the boulevard **Kurfürstendamm (Kudamm)**, the refurbished city center, **Gendarmenmarkt**, **Alexanderplatz**, **Pariser Platz**, the famous boulevard **"Unter den Linden"**, the **Berlin Cathedral**, visit the **Berlin Wall Museum**, and the infamous Checkpoint Charlie. We check in to our hotel for overnight and dinner.

#### **DAY 9: Tuesday: DEPARTURE**

We transfer to the airport for our departure home.

### **Post Tour to: Augsburg / Munich**

#### **DAY 9: Tuesday: BERLIN - DRESDEN**

Following breakfast we visit the world-famous **Pergamon Museum** with its many treasures including the Ishtar Gate and the Market Gate of Miletus. We then continue to **Dresden** (a World Heritage Site) for a walking tour of its impressive historic center with its Castle and Castle Church, Theatre Square and the famous **Semper Opera**, the Semper Gallery, **Zwinger Palace** and Bruehl's Terrace Check. We visit the magnificent **Frauenkirche** "Church of Our Lady". This baroque cathedral was destroyed in the firebombing of Dresden during World War II. It was reconstructed and completed in 2004 as a landmark symbol of reconciliation between former warring enemies. We check in to our hotel for overnight. *(In the evening, possibility to attend a performance or concert at the Semper Opera (subject to availability)).*

#### **DAY 10: Wednesday: NUREMBERG – AUGSBURG**

We drive through lovely landscapes southward to **Nuremberg** and walk along the **"Historischen Meile"**, which highlights the major architectural and artistic landmarks of an historic city which enjoyed its Golden Age in the late Middle Ages. In 1525 Nuremberg became "protestant" and was one of the first cities to make this change without an iconoclasm. In the late afternoon we arrive in **Augsburg** for overnight and dinner.

#### **DAY 11: Thursday: AUGSBURG – MUNICH**

**Augsburg**: its magnificent Renaissance buildings - dated from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries - give the city its unique character. Martin Luther stayed at the monastery of **St. Anna church** in 1518, during his confrontation with Cardinal Cajetan. Visit the oldest social settlement in existence in the world **"The Fuggerei"**, founded by Jacob Fugger in 1521 as a residential settlement for Augsburg citizens in need. The annual (net) rent for an apartment in the Fuggerei still today is the nominal value of the Rhenish Guilder, at present 0.88 Euro together with prayers three times a day for the founder and his family. About 150 people live at present in the 140 apartments in 67 houses. Probably the most famous resident of the Fuggerei was the Master Mason Franz Mozart, the great-grandfather of the composer W. A. Mozart. After lunch on our own we continue to **Munich**, the capital of Bavaria and visit

**Nymphenburg Castle** (view from outside). Overnight and dinner.

#### **DAY 12: Friday: MUNICH**

We tour the city highlighting the **historic old city** with its famous buildings and squares including the Marienplatz with the town hall and its "Glockenspiel" and the "Frauenkirche" (Church of our Lady) with its distinctive onion-topped towers. In the afternoon time at leisure. Overnight and Bavarian folkloric farewell dinner

#### **DAY 13: Saturday: DEPARTURE**

We transfer to the airport for our departure.