



Smucker European Heritage Tour October 1-14, 2024

Photo above is taken of Beatenberg and Schmoken where Schmokers live yet today and where the U.S. Smuckers originate.

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

A chartered bus will take those who wish from Morgantown, Pa., to the airport to fly to Frankfurt, Germany. Parking is available at Masthof, 219 Mill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543.

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

After flying all night (seven and one-half hours), we arrive in Germany eager to step foot on European soil! A scenic drive through the Black Forest region of Germany will take us to a hotel—the center of the cuckoo clock industry! A hike along a dazzling waterfall with an abundance of squirrels will be just the ticket for exercise before eating our first European dinner in Germany!

Thursday, October 3, 2024

As we leave the Black Forest, we drive south heading for the beautiful country of Switzerland! If the weather is perfect, we will see our first glimpse of the majestic Swiss Alps way in the distance. This breathtaking scenery is absolutely exciting! Our first stop is at Schleithem where the 1527 *Confession of Faith* was written. Then it is on to see the Rhinefalls at Schaffhausen—the largest waterfalls in Europe. Our lunch stop is at the home of our friend Lydia Baumgartner-Flachsmann who will serve Alpensoup, Swiss Bratwurst with homemade bread, and a scrumptious Swiss dessert. Then we will enjoy an afternoon cablecar ride up to Felsenegg as we overlook the Zürich Sea and city before arriving at our hotel.



Lydia loves to welcome us into her home for our first delicious homemade Swiss lunch.



Hiking to the *Anabaptist Cave* is not only a rewarding accomplishment, but also a solemn moment as we reflect on the freedom of worship we have.

Friday, October 4, 2024

A morning drive will take us to near Bäretswil (Weavers/Webers lived here) to hike up to the *Täuferhöhle* (Anabaptist Cave) where Anabaptists worshipped in secret. We will ponder the freedom we can experience today to worship unmolested in stark comparison to how the Anabaptists hiked to this cave at night in the dark for secret worship. After a meal prepared by the Fischer family at a nearby restored mill, we will drive



Memorial plaque along the *Limmat River* in Zürich shows the site where Felix Manz was drowned. The *Grossmünster Cathedral* is in the distance.

to Zurich—the birthplace of Anabaptism in 1525—for an informative walking tour of center city. Our first stop is at the memorial stone along the Limmat River—site where Anabaptist Felix Manz was drowned in 1527 and where Preacher Hans Landis was beheaded for his faith. As we walk the same cobblestone streets our Anabaptist ancestors walked, this journey becomes a spiritual journey. We also will see the Grossmünster Cathedral with its massive cast bronze doors depicting the Reformation story.

Saturday, October 5, 2024

This morning, we visit Hirzel—hometown of Johanna Spyri, the author of *Heidi*. The Hirzel Reformed Church was built from money confiscated from Landis Anabaptist families forced to leave Switzerland. Our stop at Einsiedeln, the site of a monastery founded in 934 in Canton Schwyz, emphasizes the extreme differences in worship! Our lunch stop will be at Luzerne—the first city in the Swiss Confederacy—where the famous wooden chapel bridge dating to 1333 welcomes us with its painted gables. Then we will enjoy an exciting drive through the Susten Pass before arriving at Brienz along a beautiful lake with cheese fondue and an alphorn concert tonight!

Schmocker Store in Luzerne.



Sunday October 6, 2024

Our visit to Ballenberg (open air museum)—the “Williamsburg of Switzerland”—is a delightful stroll through the past. More than 100 century-old buildings from all over Switzerland, 250 farmyard animals, traditional, old-time gardens and fields, demonstrations of local crafts and other special events create a vivid impression of rural life in days gone by. Then it is on to the mountain town of Beatenberg where Smuckers lived and, in fact, Schmocker fami-



Reformed Church at Beatenberg



The Ueli and Erika Schmocker family at Beatenberg in 2015 with children Melanie, Andrea, and Marcel. We look forward to seeing them again in 2024!

lies still live yet today at Schmoken right next to Beatenberg—a beautiful farm that at times is above the clouds.

Monday, October 7, 2024

A morning drive will take us to Erlenbach in the Simmental region where Jakob Ammann was born. Wait until you see the painted frescoes on the Reformed Church wall pictured below! Our lunch today will be in a revolving restaurant

after taking an exciting cable car ride high up into the Alps. The spectacular views of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau snow-capped mountains plus more than 200 other summits are breathtakingly awesome! Also, take a stroll through the James Bond Museum. Then, it is on to Grindelwald where the Smuckers lived before Beatenberg. In fact, Christian Schmucker was baptized on February 4, 1720, at the Reformed Church in Grindelwald.



Erlenbach Reformed Church where Jakob Ammann was baptized as an infant.

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

A stop at the Thun Castle where Anabaptists were chained already in 1532, before driving on to Steffisburg where Yoders, Kauffmans, Kings, and Lehmans have roots. We will visit the Reformed Church that proves the Joder/Yoder family worshipped and lived and served in government positions. Driving through back country roads, we are in the area where more Amish families lived before coming to America.



The Thun Castle where Anabaptists were chained in the prison towers. Yes, we will walk to the top to look out over the city.

We are now in the Emmental Valley where many of the Lancaster County, Pa., Mennonites originated. One of these nights in the Emmental, we will enjoy some yodeling music!

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

This morning we tour the old Trachselwald Castle built in 1200 A.D. where Brechbill, Mosimann, Leichthy, and Sommers Anabaptists were imprisoned. The prison cells that were there in the 1500s and 1600s can be seen yet today. From here we will stop at Jakob Markt



It is a solemn moment to consider placing one of our group into the stocks in an old prison cell at Trachselwald where Anabaptists were imprisoned.

where the locals shop—wait till you see the beautiful Swiss lace and other Swiss products that is the perfect place to do some shopping. Then we are off to stop at a cowbell factory, and then the Kambly Swiss Cookie Factory where we can sample different Swiss cookies—all free. This afternoon, we visit our friends, Simon and Regula Fankhauser, who will tell us about the *Täuferversteck*—a hiding place for Anabaptists. A visit to a local cheese factory will give us the opportunity to sample Swiss cheese and even purchase some .



The Täuferversteck—a hiding place for Anabaptists—was used in the 1600s to escape from persecution. We will visit it here in this Swiss barn owned by Simon and Regula Fankhauser.



Bern Clock in Bern, Switzerland.



Christian Schmucker's baptismal record is found in this old book at the Bern Stadtarchiv.



One of the many beautiful Swiss homes with flowers everywhere.

Thursday, October 10, 2024

Today we enter Bern—the capital of Switzerland—where we will visit the Bern Stadt-archiv to see Christian Schmucker's 1720 baptismal record from the Reformed Church in Grindelwald. Then during some free time, we can watch the famous clock tower in Bern turn to a new hour, enjoy the bear pits, and tour the cathedral. Back on our bus, we drive through the Jura to Montbéliard where Schmuckers, Roths, Meyers, and Freys lived before emigrating to America.



Sainte-Marie-aux Mines nestled in the valley where Jakob Ammann and many other Amish settled in the late 1600s.



Ringweilerhof

Saturday, October 12, 2024

As we leave France, our first stop is at Ringweilerhof at the farm of Peter and Karin Schowalter. Here is where Immigrant Nicholas Stoltzfus lived before coming to America. Then it is on to we Worms, Germany, to tour the famed Worms Cathedral and see the Martin Luther monument surrounded by the main fore-runners of the Reformation: Peter Waldo, John Wycliffe, Jan Hus, and Girolamo Savonarola.



Ride past the same castles our ancestors rode past on the Rhine River.



Friday, October 11, 2024

As we drive through the stork region of France, we will enter the Sainte-Marie-aux Mines Valley where Jakob Amman lived. Many Amish settled here after leaving Switzerland. Tonight we will sleep in the old town of Obernai, France, where our hotel is located right up next to the old stone wall that surrounds the old part of town. This is a good place to do some shopping as you explore the cobblestone streets.

Sunday, October 13, 2024

Today is a special day as we ride on a ship down the Rhine River like our ancestors did centuries ago on their way to America. See a different castle around every curve—castles where our ancestors had to stop to pay a toll! We stop half-way up the Rhine River for lunch to explore the unique town of Bacharach. After a time of strolling through the town, we get back on another ship that will take us to Rudesheim for our last night in Europe. A goodbye party will conclude this journey in the land of our ancestors.

Monday, October 14, 2024

Fly home from the Frankfurt, Germany, airport.



Grape vineyards along the Rhine River.



Lovely Swiss Edelweiss.



Colorful flower boxes are everywhere!

— TOUR FEATURES AND CONDITIONS —

TOUR PRICE: \$4,950.00 per person based on double occupancy (add \$800 for a single room). A chartered bus from Morgantown will be available to transport persons to and from the airport. Vehicles may be parked cost-free at Masthof (Morgantown, Pa.) while we are in Europe. The projected cost for bus transportation to and from the airport will be about \$60 roundtrip per person (depends on the number of persons).

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Airfare and USA departure tax included in tour price.

MEALS: Continental breakfast each morning and dinner each evening (excludes beverages) are provided. Lunches are on our own, although suggestions will be provided.

BAGGAGE: Motorcoach capacity limits tour participants to one large suitcase per person plus a carry-on bag, so only one large suitcase plus “underseat” baggage, **please**. Airline baggage limits apply to the tour: luggage may not exceed a combined length, width, and height of 106 inches provided no bag exceeds 62 inches in width. The carry-on bag total dimensions limit is 45 inches, and cannot weigh more than 50 pounds.

SIGHTSEEING AND ENTRANCE FEES: Entrance fees are included to all places mentioned in this itinerary.

TIPS AND TAXES: Applicable taxes and service charges for program features are included. All tips to hotel staff for included services and meals and to bus driver are included.

NOT INCLUDED: Passport fee, travel insurance if your situation deems necessary, meals at noontime, beverages with included dinners, and personal expenses are not included. Details on the use of credit card and using the country’s currency will be provided closer to our departure.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$450.00 per person is requested to hold space on this tour. The remaining \$4,500 will be due on or before January 1, 2024, as space permits. Pending availability, reservations will be accepted after January 1, 2024, although the cost of the airline ticket portion of the tour price may increase.

CANCELLATION CONDITIONS: Full refund granted if cancellation is received by January 1, 2024. Cancellation after January 1, 2024, will result in a full refund less airline ticket cost (although airlines usually do offer a voucher for amount of ticket for future use),

PASSPORT: A valid passport is required. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one immediately. If you have a passport, please verify that it is valid until at least December 31, 2024. No visa is required.

ALL RATES AND FARES ARE CALCULATED ON PRICES IN EFFECT AS OF MAY 1, 2023, AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. TOUR PRICE IS BASED ON THE PARTICIPATION OF 30 PERSONS.

Mennonite Family History, 219 Mill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543-9516 • mast@masthof.com • 484-798-8556

Please reserve space for _____ person(s) on the 2024 Smucker European Heritage Tour.

Check should be payable to “**Mennonite Family History.**” Enclosed is my deposit check of \$ _____. (\$450.00 deposit per person)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone & E-mail: _____

Good Morning Nate and Melba,

Oh, this was fun . . . although somewhat of a challenge too. I do hope though that you were joking when you thought the total might be \$30,000 or \$40,000. Last year, we organized a similar tour (16 days instead of 12 days) and the cost per person was \$5,650. We had a group of 30 persons on that tour.

With this said, I think we can offer the attached itinerary for \$3,650 per person with some variables, as follows:

1) We will offer a credit to you for each additional person (over and above the now 21 persons). These extra persons will each pay \$4,200 per person, but you will pay \$3,650 per person for the 19 persons in your family. (We are not charging for our time, just our airfare and lodging expenses, in order to keep the cost down. This extra amount for the additional persons -- still an excellent price -- will help offset expenses.)

2) I also decided to offer some deductions for you to consider IF you wish to lower the price. These deductions (except for the last one) are not my preference because I believe we need the extras for both culture and enjoyment to provide variety in this trip, but here are some items that can be deducted from the tour price (note that this is a deduction per person for only your 19 persons):

a) Deduct \$25 per person to delete the alphorn and yodeling concerts.

b) Deduct \$130 per person to delete the Jungfrau excursion.

c) Deduct \$70 per person if you find your own way to JFK Airport instead of the group going by chartered bus to and from Morgantown. The entire group will then find their own way . . . not just some of the group.

d) Deduct \$150 per person (called a credit above) for each additional person to join our group.

Providing a price this far in advance does concern us somewhat because who knows what could happen to our economy or to the EURO in the next 1.5 years? We are offering this price using the cost to fly this June to Europe. If the price increases, we will need to re-negotiate. Airlines will not issue a contract this early. Neither will the bus company in Europe. Plus, the hotels do not work ahead this far either. Thanks for understanding!

One more note concerning hotel pricing in Europe. Here in the U.S., one can stop and get a hotel room for a certain amount usually irregardless of the number of persons in that room. In Europe, it is different. They charge per person instead of per room. I contacted several hotels today (they are six hours ahead of us in time) where I would have liked to have stayed and NONE of them had rooms with two double beds. I am not surprised. This is just the way hotels are in Europe. I do know though that there are some so in the next year, I will pursue this. In our past travels in Europe (when we had one child in our room), the hotel would give us a \$20 discount for the third person -- we were required to pay for three persons in the room with the third person (a child) receiving only \$20 off the per person rate. This is customary in Europe! This is another reason why the tour price is higher than you had anticipated.

If any of this does not make sense, please call or send an e-mail. I really tried to keep the cost down, but we want to offer a memorable tour that will "bless" and "inspire" everyone -- of all ages! Lemar did express concern as to whether we can keep the interest of four children, two teens, three young adults, and 10+ adults! There are times, for example, when we need to travel in the bus for three hours. I believe we can do it, but he recommended we do share our concern.

Thanks for this privilege to work with you. We are eager to receive your thoughts and questions and concerns . . .

Lois Ann and Lemar Mast
484-798-8556 (cell)



European Heritage Tour

July 16 - August 2, 2010

Request the four-page color itinerary of this 17-day tour of Germany and Switzerland which includes the famed Passion Play performed only once every ten years! Filling fast, so please contact:

Tour Guides Lemar and Lois Ann Mast
219 Mill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543
mast@masthof.com • 610-286-0258

