



# KIRK IN THE HILLS PILGRIMAGE

A Pilgrimage discovering Reformation and World War II sites, with musical interludes to refresh the Pilgrim's soul



13 DAY TOUR - APRIL 23 - MAY 5, 2025

Kirk in the Hills is pleased to announce our 2025 Pilgrimage to Germany and Switzerland, both important countries in our church's Reformation history. The pilgrimage will be led by **Pastor Edwin Estevez** and **Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick**, transitional executive of The Synod of the Covenant. Dr Hardwick will be lecturing on key Reformation speakers before we leave and assisting Pastor Edwin with daily devotions. Please address all questions and inquiries to Ruth Reading at 248-875-1371 or [sterlingdesigns@yahoo.com](mailto:sterlingdesigns@yahoo.com).



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# TOUR ITINERARY

**Key: IF = In Flight Meals, B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner**

## **Day 1: Wednesday, April 23, 2025: Depart**

We will depart from the USA on our transatlantic overnight flights to Berlin. Pre-tour travel can be arranged through Reformation Tours, including a panoramic tour of Berlin's cultural highlights. **(IF)**

## **Day 2: Thursday, April 24, 2025: Arrival in Berlin**

When we arrive in Berlin, we will transfer to our hotel to check-in. Later in the day, we will begin our Pilgrimage with a visit to World War II sites in Berlin including the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, & the Topography of Terror. We will end the day with our welcome meal at the hotel. We have one night in the Hotel Leonardo Royal Alexanderplatz in Berlin. **( IF/D)**

## **Day 3: Friday, April 25, 2025: Wittenberg, Leipzig**

After a relaxing breakfast, we will travel to Lutherstadt Wittenberg. It was here in 1517 that Martin Luther nailed his famous 95 Theses to the door of Castle Church (Schlosskirche). Although the original doors were destroyed in the Seven Years War, we can see Luther's texts cast in bronze on the new doors. We will see St. Mary's Church where Luther regularly preached and the Old Latin School next door. Luther's former home, is now a Reformation Museum. We will continue on to Leipzig and dine in the famous Auerbachs Keller, a restaurant familiar to Luther and Goethe. We will stay in the Seaside Hotel Park in Leipzig for 3 nights. **(B/D)**



## **Day 4: Saturday, April 26, 2025: Leipzig**

We will begin our day at the Mendelsohn House. Our guided tour will include a chamber concert in the music salon. After some free time for lunch, we will visit the Bach House, with the option of attending the 3PM motet concert in St. Thomas, where Bach was cantor for 27 years. The afternoon will end at St. Nicholas Church, which was home to the "Prayers for Peace" in 1989, with thousands joining in candlelight prayers, leading to the fall of the infamous Berlin Wall. The evening is at leisure but concert tickets can be arranged. **(B)**



### **Day 5: Sunday, April 27, 2025: Leipzig, Dresden**

On the way to Dresden, we will stop at Wackerbarth Castle for lunch and wine tasting. This Baroque palace and garden dates back to the early 1700s and serves one of the oldest sparkling wines in Europe. We will have an afternoon walking tour of Dresden, including magnificent palatial buildings around the Theaterplatz, the Zwinger Palace, Dresden Castle, Kreuzkirche, and the Brühl Terraces. At Evensong in the Frauenkirche, Germany's largest Protestant Church. The Frauenkirche has now been fully restored after being damaged during WWII. J.S. Bach was the first to play on the Silberman organ when the church was originally built. During the service we will hear the Kern organ, which was constructed in 2005 in Strasbourg, to replace the destroyed original organ. We will return to Leipzig late afternoon.. **(B/L)**

### **Day 6: Monday, April 28, 2025: Erfurt, Eisenach**

We'll drive to Erfurt and have free time for lunch. Our pilgrimage today will be on foot to view St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Severin's Church, and the famous Merchant's Bridge. During our visit to the Augustinian Monastery where Luther became a monk on July 17, 1505, we will see his monastic quarters, including one cell furnished to look as it would have when he lived there. At the end of the day, we will have a group time in the chapel. We will check-in to our hotel in Eisenach and dine in our hotel. We will stay in the Vienna House Hotel in Eisenach for 2 nights. **(B/D)**



### **Day 7: Tuesday, April 29, 2025: Eisenach**

While tensions flared between Luther and the Pope, Luther took refuge in the Wartburg Castle after a fake kidnapping staged by his friend and protector, Frederick the Wise. We will visit the Wartburg and see where Luther finished translating the New Testament into German in just eleven weeks. In the afternoon we will explore Eisenach, including the Luther House, where Luther lodged when he was a schoolboy in Eisenach as a schoolboy and chorister. We will also visit the Bach House, where we will hear a demonstration on period instruments, as well as St. George's Church. In the evening we will have medieval-themed meal. **(B/D)**



### **Day 8: Wednesday, April 30, 2025: Nuremberg**

Nuremberg is well known for its long tradition of toy manufacturing. Nuremberg was also the city where the Nazis held their party rallies in the 1930s, and the Documentation Center presents this history on the rally grounds where it occurred. We will see the court room where the trials took place. In the evening we will dine in a Bavarian-style restaurant. We will stay in the Hotel N H Collection Nürnberg City in Nuremberg for 1 night. **(B/D)**

### **Day 9: Thursday, May 1, 2025: Dachau, Ettal**

Our first stop this morning is a sobering visit to Dachau Concentration Camp. We will continue onto Ettal and settle into our hotel in this charming Bavarian village. Dinner tonight will be in the Ettal Monastery brewery restaurant. Ettal also has cheese tasting available and brewery tours. Vespers at 6 PM is open to visitors. We will stay in the Hotel Ludwig der Bayer in Ettal for 1 night. **(B/D)**

### **Day 10: Friday, May 2, 2025: Zurich, Lucerne**

Today's drive will be through the scenic Alps, with stunning scenery. We will have a lunch break in Bregenz, a scenic Austrian town on the shore of Lake Constance. We will continue on to Zurich and have a tour of Reformation sites, such as the Grossmünster Cathedral, where Zwingli preached. We will end the day in Lucerne and dine in our hotel. This evening, we may enjoy a stroll in town to see the famous chapel bridge. We will stay in the Hotel Astoria in Lucerne for 1 night. **(B)**



### **Day 11: Saturday, May 3, 2025: The Golden Pass Express, Lausanne**

There's no better way to explore Switzerland than by train, so today will be spectacular. Our luggage will be taken to our hotel by bus, so we will be free to enjoy our train journey. We'll first drive to Interlaken, passing the Sarnersee and Lungernsee lakes. We'll board the train at 11:08 AM and arrive in Montreux at 2:45 PM. The scenery through the mountains is exceptional and we'll have panoramic windows to enjoy the view. When we arrive in Montreux, we will have a tour of Chillon Castle, then check-in to our hotel in Lausanne. We will stay in the [Hotel Mövenpick](#) in Lausanne for 2 nights. **(B/D)**

### **Day 12: Sunday, May 4, 2025: Geneva, Lausanne**

Our day will begin at the impressive Reformation Monument. This wall was built to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Calvin's birth. We then have the option to attend the morning service with the Church of Scotland in the Auditoire de Calvin. After free time for lunch, we will visit St. Pierre's Cathedral, the archaeological site beneath the cathedral, and the Reformation Museum. We will enjoy a Farewell Meal in a Swiss restaurant this evening. **(B/D)**

### **Day 13: Monday, May 5, 2025: Return**

We will return to the USA today or continue our travels in Europe. **(B)**

# PRICING

**The land price of \$4,599** is based on double occupancy and a minimum number of 25 travelers. These rates are subject to change if there is a significant fluctuation in the exchange rate.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transportation: via deluxe air-conditioned coach
- Group arrival and departure transfers
- Accommodations (double-occupancy)
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Professional Tour Director throughout the tour
- Local step-on guides for city tours and major attractions
- Whisper headsets
- Admission to all activities indicated in the itinerary
- All taxes and tips
- Trip app and full color tour book

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Round-trip air transportation and related taxes and fees (options pending )
- Arrival and departure transfers (if not on group air)
- Single supplement (\$850)
- Meals and beverages not identified in itinerary
- Items of a personal nature, such as passports and visas. Passports must be valid for 6 months beyond return date.
- Passenger trip cancellation insurance



# TERMS & CONDITIONS

**SIGN UP:** Please click the registration link on the website.

**PAYMENT METHOD:** Payments can be made directly on the registration platform, using a credit card (3.5% fee), or a bank debit. You can also send checks made payable to "Reformation Tours" at 12316 244th St., Chisago City, MN 55013-9688.

**FIRST DEPOSIT:** A \$350 per person, partially-refundable deposit at the time of registration will secure your space.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** January 23, 2025.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We highly recommended insuring your tour and there are two options (see below). Enhanced insurance needs to be paid within two weeks of paying the deposit.

**ROOMING and DIETARY REQUIREMENTS:** All

passenger details including, rooming preferences, dietary needs and any medical conditions are collected at registration, or via email.

**CANCELLATIONS:** All cancellations must be received in writing or by email by 5:00 p.m. Central Time on the last business day of the applicable period. The postmark date will determine the refund amount due.

From time of deposit until 100 days before departure (1/13/25)	\$100 per person
From 99 - 30 days before departure (1/24/25 - 3/24/25)	\$350 plus any non-refundable deposits
Less than 30 days before departure (3/25/25)	No refund

In addition to our cancellation costs, we may need to charge for any unrecoverable deposits to suppliers and any penalties imposed by airlines or ground suppliers. Airline tickets, once printed, are not refundable.

Book with **confidence** 



SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE BENEFITS	MAXIMUM BENEFIT AMOUNT	STANDARD PLAN F561S	ENHANCED PLAN F561E
Cancel For Any Reason Benefit*	75% of Non-Refundable Trip Cost		✓
Trip Cancellation** Single Supplement	up to 100% of the non-refundable insured Trip Cost included	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
Trip Interruption** Single Supplement	up to 100% of the non-refundable insured Trip Cost included	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
Additional Trip Interruption Travel Companion Hospitalization	Included under Trip Interruption benefit Maximum up to \$150 Per Day Limited to 5 Days	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
Missed Connection	\$500	✓	✓
Trip Delay	up to \$150 Per Day, to a Maximum of \$750	✓	✓
Accident & Sickness Medical Expense Dental Expense Sublimit	\$25,000 \$750	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
Medical Evacuation & Repatriation of Remains Additional Medical Evacuation: Transportation Of Children/Child Bedside Visit Transportation to Join You	\$100,000 included included included	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Political or Security Evacuation & Natural Disaster Evacuation	\$25,000	✓	✓
Baggage and Personal Effects Passport, Visa or Other Travel Documents Replacement Credit Card Charges and Interest Per Article Limit Items Subject to Special Limitations	\$1,500 \$100 \$50 up to \$300 \$600 Maximum Combined	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Baggage Delay	\$300 Up to \$50 to expedite the Return	✓ ✓	✓ ✓

PLAN	RATE
Standard (F561S)	<b>4.55% of Trip Cost</b>
Enhanced (F561E)	<b>7.60% of Trip Cost</b>

**Generali Global Assistance**   
non-insurance service

Multi-lingual professionals are available 24 hours a day to provide help, advice and referrals for medical emergencies. We will help you locate local physicians, dentists, or medical facilities, and provide services, including:

- Medical Evacuation Arrangements
- Emergency Medical Payments
- Prescription Assistance
- 24 Hour Legal Assistance
- Emergency Cash Transfer

A complete list of these services is included in your Plan Document.

**To contact Generali Global Assistance:**

**Within U.S & Canada**  
1-855-205-1232

**Collect Worldwide**  
1-954-370-3251

\*Not available to NY Residents. Additional terms apply.  
\*\*Benefits are only payable if trip is cancelled/interrupted due to a covered peril.

**Additional Terms and Conditions apply. Please refer to your plan document for complete description of coverage.**