

GOLDEN RULE TRAVEL

European Highlights 2010 Passion Play

June 11-25, 2010



DAY BY DAY Itinerary

June 11 to 25, 2010

15 days

Day 1

June 11, Friday

Board our flights from the USA this afternoon, arriving Amsterdam early the next morning. There is a 6-hour time difference between the East Coast of the USA and Holland. We remain in the same time zone for our entire stay in Europe.

Day 2

June 12, Saturday

We board our deluxe motor-coach meeting our good friend and driver "Jan". Visit the Corrie Ten Boom house and "The Hiding Place". Stoop inside the original hiding place where Corrie's family hid Jews during WWII. We will spend our first night in Giethoorn, widely known as the village without streets and roads, only sidewalks and canals. It was a place of refuge for fleeing Anabaptists, and there is still a "Doopsgesinde Kerk", a Mennonite church here. During the severe persecution of the Dutch Mennonites, Giethoorn consisted of 50% Mennonite refugees. Check in and get settled into the unique setting and opportunity we have of staying in bed and breakfasts, some along the canals. Part of the group will stay in nearby hotels. Options include relaxing and strolling along the flower lined canals, or you may elect to rent a boat or bicycle for your own little ride on or along side the canals.

Family Kollen, Heida, and Mol

<http://www.fluisterboot.nl>

<http://www.restaurantgiethoorn.nl/nl/>

Day 3

June 13, Sunday

After breakfast, we head to the town of Witmarsum, where Menno Simons grew up and began his ministry. Here, in the town of his birth, we visit the Menno Simons Memorial Church. In the village of Pingjum where

Menno Simons first served as Catholic priest, we visit a hidden church, which to all appearances is just another house. Enjoy a worship service and fellowship with Dutch Mennonites at the Doopsgesinde Gemeente Harlingen. This afternoon we return to the village of Giethoorn for a relaxing early evening.



Day 4

June 14, Monday

Visit the Aalsmeer Flower Auction, the largest in the world. 17 million flowers and 2 million plants are auctioned daily, supplied by 7000 growers in the Netherlands and other countries. Each day an average of 50,000 transactions are concluded with exporters and wholesalers who export the flowers and plants worldwide. With a surface area of 750,000 square meters, the auction complex is the largest covered trade center in the world. Head for downtown Amsterdam and enjoy a one-hour cruise through the many canals of the city.



Our route will take us

past the Anne Frank House, the smallest house in Amsterdam, and other sights of interest along the way. Visit the village of Zaanse Schans. This Dutch village is complete with cheese



makers, wooden shoe shops, other unique shops and old windmills. You will be able to take in a shoe making demonstration and actually go inside a working windmill. What could be more fitting than having fish on the menu tonight in the old fishing village of Volendam? Return to the village of

Giethoorn for the night.



Day 5

June 15, Tuesday

We bid farewell to Holland and drive via Koln, Germany to the Rhine River area. Today will be a good day for group introductions as we drive several hours. Arriving Boppard, Germany along the Rhine River, we embark on our ship for a two hour cruise past castles, vineyards, and picturesque villages.





Dinner and overnight in a Castle, the Burg Stahleck, in Bacharach, Germany. You will have nice views of the Rhine River from the castle.

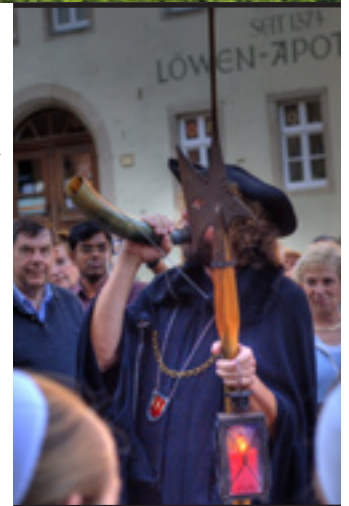
Phone 011 6743 1226 and fax



Day 6

June 16, Wednesday

Continue on to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, the most perfectly preserved medieval town in Germany. Explore the town walls, visit City Hall, or explore the shops. Rothenburg can often be best enjoyed by aimless wandering through the narrow streets and soaking up the sights and sounds of a slice of Germany from centuries past. After dinner, follow the town watchman dressed in medieval garb, as he takes you on a tour through the town after dark. You will be transported back four centuries as you hear him describe life in the Middle Ages. Overnight near Rothenburg in a Christian Retreat Center. <http://www.pension-seiffer.de>



Day 7

June 17, Thursday

Leaving Germany, we head for the Alsace-Lorraine area of France. This is the area where the Amish movement had its beginnings.

Here in the Palatinate (Germany) and Alsace (France), where some of the sweetest wines of

Europe are harvested, our Swiss Anabaptist refugees of France found a safe resting place when fleeing persecution. They were welcomed here because of their agricultural husbandry and craftsmen skills.

Here the Amish movement grew and flourished before immigration to the US began in the 1700 and 1800s. If time permits, we may stop in the French town of Obernai, set in the midst of acres of vineyards.

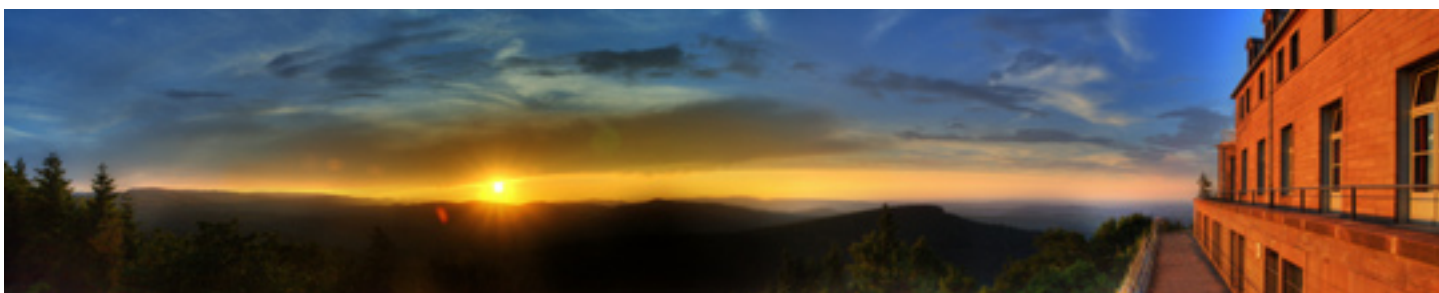
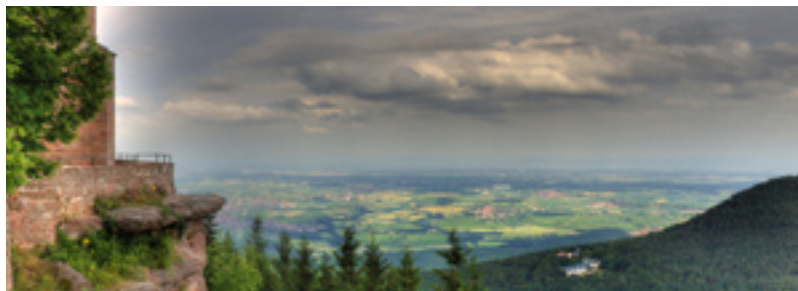
Visit "Struthof" a Nazi concentration camp high in the mountains of

France. Struthof is a grim reminder of the Nazi effort to exterminate all "undesirables". Overnight in a working Catholic monastery on top of a mountain at 2200 feet with spectacular views of the valley of Alsace below. The monastery dates back to the 7th century. Dinner will be served in the monastery dining hall.

Phone 011-33-388-958-053

Fax 011-33-388-958-9296

<http://www.mont-sainte-odile.fr>



Day 8

June 18, Friday

After optionally spectating morning mass in the nice little chapel near the breakfast dining hall, we leave this peaceful place. Continue on into the beautiful land of Switzerland! We head into the Swiss hills of the Emmental Valley where many of our Mennonite ancestors originated. If the weather is clear, you will enjoy panoramic views of the Alps tonight. We stay at a country inn, high in the steep hills of the Emmental. Cow bells in adjoining meadows will lull you to sleep tonight. Hotel Luederenalp. (close to Langnau)

<http://www.luederenalp.ch/index1.html>

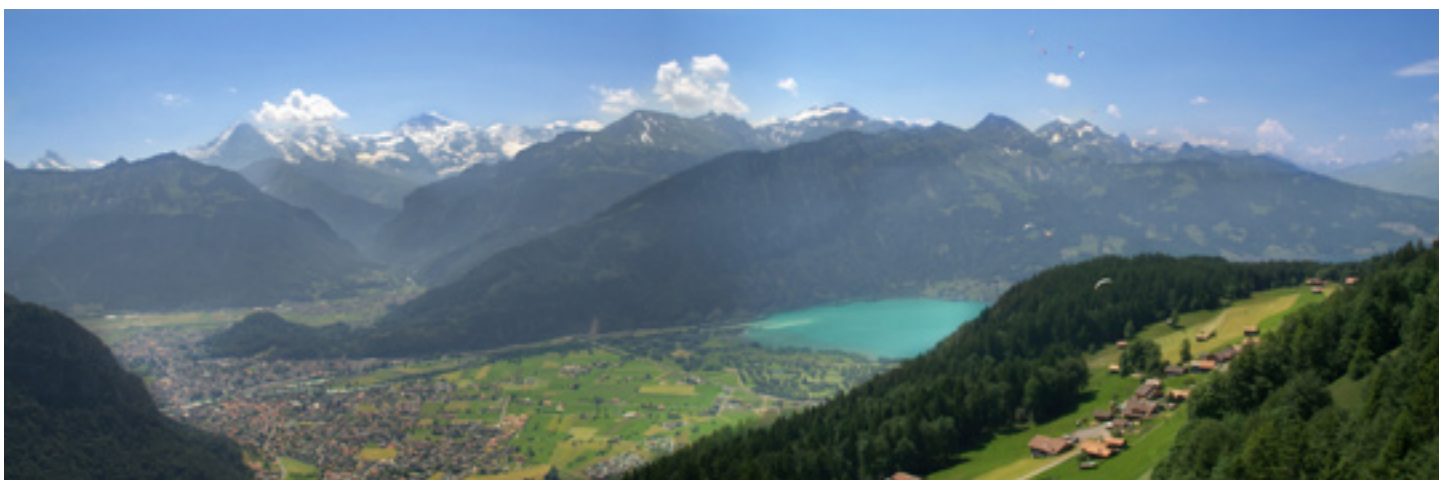
Day 9

June 19, Saturday

After waking to sounds of cow bells in pastures, we visit the Haslebacher house where the last Emmental martyr lived. Climb winding stairs exploring Trachelwald castle where a number of unfortunate Anabaptists were often punished with life imprisonment.

Visit the state of the art cheese factory, home of world famous Swiss Cheese. Today we push on deeper into the heart of the Alps. As we near our hotel, those who

prefer resting to shopping can go with the bus to our 4 star mountaintop hotel in Beatenberg and relax while others shop in the town of Interlaken. Tonight, enjoy our special Swiss folklore dinner in Interlaken complete with yodeling and other traditional Swiss entertainment. Overnight in a hotel we've loved for years, the Mercure Beatenberg: <http://www.mercure-beatenberg.ch> The views from your balconies are fantastic, overlooking the lake with the Alps in the background.



Day 10

June 20, Sunday

After a wonderful breakfast buffet, we head for even higher mountains! Today could be the highlight of the trip as we take a gondola up the heights of Mt. Schilthorn alongside the most spectacular Alps in Switzerland. Enroute relax at Murren, an Alpine village free of cars and other modern nuisances. You might want to enjoy a hot drink in the revolving restaurant atop Schilthorn's peak as you enjoy views of the Jungfrau.



Have you ever dreamed of paragliding in the Swiss Alps? For an extra \$150 and weather permitting, you will be able to jump in tandem with a co-pilot from near our hotel to the valley below. Return to our Mercure Beatenberg for the night.



Day 11
June 21, Monday

Leaving the majestic Alpine area, we head in the direction of Zurich. Here in Zurich we will take a walking tour of Anabaptist sites of interest. Visit the Grossmunster Cathedral, the Conrad Grebel house, and the site of the drowning of Felix Manz in the Limmat River. Leaving the city, we head into the countryside, where we trek through meadows and woods to visit the Tauferhohle, a cave where Anabaptists met in secret to escape the persecution of the state churches. Leaving the beautiful land of Switzerland, we drive into the Principality of Liechtenstein. Liechtenstein is a tiny nation about 7 miles wide and 14 miles long, known for the postage stamps they issue. Overnight in area.



Day 12

June 22, Tuesday

This morning we continue on into Mittersill, Austria. Visit the nearby 12th century medieval Schloss Mittersill. The castle is actually being used as a Christian Retreat Center. Enjoy a time of singing in a little chapel located inside the castle. During our time here, we will also visit the dungeon where several Anabaptists were actually imprisoned within the castle. Visit a glacier lake, Hintersee and a little "Heidi" type goat farm beside the lake. Overnight Hotel Holzer in the mountains near Mittersill, Austria.

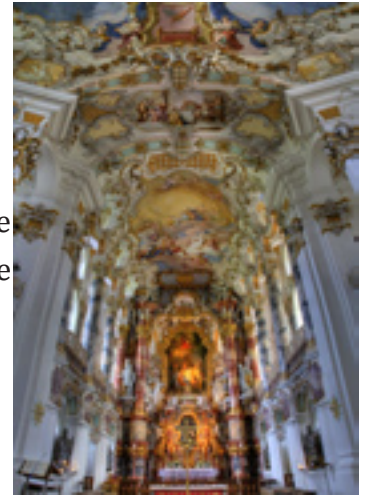
Hotel Holzer: 011-43-6562-8405, Fax: 011-43-6562-8405-55, <http://www.hotelholzer.at>

Day 13

June 23, Wednesday



Enjoy a scenic drive as we leave Austria and on to the Oberammergau, Germany region, site of the famous Passion Play, held every ten years. This is the year!! Some of the options for this afternoon, include Neuschwanstein, a dream castle which was the pattern for Disney, or Linderhof, a palatial residence, both built by mad King Ludwig of Bavaria, or Wieskirche, an ornate Rococo church set in a meadow among cattle and farms. We will not be going inside Neuschwanstein due to the long lines but viewing it from the outside. Overnight Oberammergau area.



Day 14

June 24, Thursday

Today we take in the Oberammergau Passion Play. Since 1634 the village of Oberammergau has portrayed Christ's life every decade. It was first performed following a vow taken by the people of Oberammergau during an outbreak of bubonic plague. In nearby Munich alone, almost 15,000 people died. The frightened population of Oberammergau prayed, vowing that the entire village would portray Christ's life and suffering every 10 years if God would spare them. The town was spared, and a tradition was born. The play is now performed at the beginning of each decade. The production is done in German but an English translation is available. Though the cast is huge —1,700 parts — performers must be natives of Oberammergau, or have lived in the town for at least 10 years or be married to a native. Performers consider it an honor to participate and many leave their businesses to do so. Men start growing beards a year prior to look authentic. The play is performed in an open air amphitheater which incorporates the natural setting into a backdrop and provides seating for 4,780 visitors.

Your morning is free to enjoy the delightful village of Oberammergau with opportunities for photos and shopping. Lunch is provided. The play depicts the story of Christ's Passion, beginning with the entry into Jerusalem and ending with the resurrection and transfiguration, a moving and spectacular experience. Each performance starts at 2:30 pm and ends approximately 10:30 pm, with a three-hour dinner break/intermission from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Overnight Oberammergau area

Day 15

June 25, Friday

Enjoy breakfast with your hosts in Oberammergau before driving one hour to Munich for our afternoon flight departure. Bid farewell to the "old country" as we wing our way back from Munich or Frankfurt, Germany to the USA.

Note: We will negotiate a group airfare in mid-2009. Air prices are not yet available for our travel time period. In the event that air prices may be higher for the afternoon flights we need out of Munich, we may give you the option of returning from Frankfurt, Germany and staying one additional day. The airfare savings may more than compensate for the extra dinner, hotel and breakfast. It would be an additional 4 hour drive from Munich to Frankfurt and we would fly Saturday June 26. There would be an additional cost to the tour but we would only do so if you would come out ahead by saving on airfare.

INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- A passport valid until November 2010 is required.
- Every effort will be made to follow this itinerary as closely as possible, however Golden Rule reserves the right to make any changes necessary to operate this tour.
- All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars and are based on currency exchange rates in effect March 2009 and are subject to possible decreases in value of dollar/euro exchange rate

Price of \$3395 per person is based on HC3 Passion Play tickets with seating in Category 1, does not include airfare, and is based on double-occupancy.

Included

- Airport transfers and transportation by private deluxe motor coach
- Accommodations based on double occupancy (two persons per room)
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Services of tour guide, Lewis Overholt
- Rhine River cruise
- All entrance fees as specified in itinerary
- Alpine cable car lift and train tickets in Switzerland
- Passion Play tickets

Not Included

- Coach driver tips of \$2 per day per person
- Lunches
- Round trip airfare from USA to Amsterdam, Holland and return from Munich or Frankfurt, Germany

Airfare can only be booked within 330 days of travel. When air rates are available, we will negotiate a group rate on behalf of the group and will present you with options.

Payment and Cancellation Details

Last day to enroll is September 1, 2009. (The remaining \$2995 (\$3395 - \$400) is due then, as well.)

In order to reserve a place on this tour, a \$400 non-refundable deposit per person needs to be paid with enrollment. Although this is non-refundable, we will allow you to assign your deposit amount to another person of your choice without a penalty up until December 8, 2009. You need to find a person to take it, however. We offer travel insurance and encourage you to use it. Call for details.

Additional penalties go into effect December 8, 2009 as follows:

- up to 180 days before the travel date 20%
- up to 141 days before the travel date 30%
- up to 91 days before the travel date 40%
- from 90 days to 1 day before the travel date 80%

Passion Play Ticket Options

Golden Rule has already purchased a block of HC3 & HC4 Passion Play tickets that include two nights lodging as outlined below.

The tour price is based on HC3 tickets which come with Category 1 seats in the theatre. Category 1 seats are the second best possible category. The order of desirability of seats is: Category 1A, 1, 2, 3. *However, all seats have a good view of the stage. The acoustics in the whole Passion Play theatre are excellent.*

- HC1 tickets with category 1A seating and a luxury hotel (\$300 extra)
- HC2 tickets with category 1A seating and a superior hotel (\$150 extra)
- HC3 tickets with category 1 seating and a superior middle class hotel (included)
- HC4 tickets with category 2 seating and a middle class hotel (\$130 less)

If you want a ticket other than those included, we will try to get it for you. However, all tickets are subject to availability. Add-on figures are approximate.

The above lodging categories apply only to the two night ticket package in the Oberammergau area. All lodging for the Passion Play event is in the town of Oberammergau except for three of the HC4 tickets which are approximately 4.4 kilometers or 5 minutes south of Oberammergau in the small town of Ettal.

Enrollment

Simply mail a check for \$400 per person to Golden Rule Travel, 11 S Lyons Street, Partridge, KS 67566 along with your name, address, phone number & email address or fax number. Specify which class of Passion Play ticket you want.

If you have any questions, call Marvin Mast at 620-567-2025.

We are pleased to again have Lewis Overholt as our tour guide this year. Lewis served in Germany for over 40 years as a pastor, mission church planter, and evangelist. He was serving in Berlin during the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. His interests include cross cultural communication: he speaks German fluently. He is well versed in Anabaptist History, as well as European culture, practice, and history. He has led many tours throughout the past 40 years and traveled extensively in Western Europe. He and his wife Mary have retired in Georgia but have children and grandchildren in Berlin, Germany.