

European Highlights Tour Passion Play 2020



GOLDENRULE
TRAVEL

May 18-30, 2020
Netherlands, Germany,
Switzerland

"We Go the Second Mile"

Day-by-Day Itinerary

May 18-30, 2020

-13 Days-

Day 1—Monday, May 18

Board our flights from the USA this afternoon, arriving in Amsterdam 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.



Netherlands

Day 2—Tuesday, May 19

Our flights arrive at various times throughout the day. After arrival and clearing immigration, we take the free shuttle bus to our airport hotel. This afternoon we board our deluxe motorcoach for a 30 minute ride to Zaanse Schans, a Dutch village 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. *Return to our airport hotel for dinner and overnight.*



Day 3—Wednesday, May 20

This morning, everyone should be in the hotel lobby at 6:30am ready to board the bus to drive a short distance to take in the world famous Flower Auction which opens at 7am. All aboard our deluxe motor-coach! We plan to be back on the bus at 8:15am, return to the hotel by 8:30am, enjoy the breakfast buffet, have our suitcases loaded in the bus and

ready to leave at 9:45am. Drive to Haarlem and visit the Corrie Ten Boom house and “The Hiding Place.” Stoop inside the original hiding place where Corrie's family hid Jews during WWII. After lunch, visit the center of Amsterdam where you will 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. On to Volendam, an old fishing village where we enjoy shopping, fish for dinner and overnight at the quaint Hotel Spaander, Volendam. 01131299363595



Day 4—Thursday, May 21

After breakfast, onto the bus with roll call to make sure we are all here before we head north and out of Amsterdam. Cross the 21 mile Northern Dike and see land that was reclaimed from the sea. As we drive through the countryside of Friesland, you will see canals in green hay fields, with cows, sheep, and horses grazing alongside steep-roofed Dutch cottages. Visit the town of Witmarsum, where Menno Simons grew up and began his ministry. 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. From here it's on to Giethoorn, Holland 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 Doopsgezinde Kerk, a Mennonite church here. During the severe persecution of the Dutch Mennonites, Giethoorn consisted of 50% Mennonite refugees. 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 alongside the canals. Dinner tonight is at the Hotel Pergola Restaurant, a special Dutch pancake buffet. *Overnight Giethoorn*



Germany

Day 5—Friday, May 22

Leave the Netherlands, crossing the German border and on to Cologne. This 2,000-year-old city spanning the Rhine River in western Germany, is the region's cultural hub. A landmark of High Gothic architecture set amid reconstructed old town, the twin-spired Cologne Cathedral is also known for its gilded medieval reliquary and sweeping river views. Its spires soar 516 feet into the sky and you will have the option of climbing 509 stone steps of the spiral staircase to a viewing platform 322 feet above the ground. The platform gives a scenic view over the Rhine. Enjoy lunch at Peters Brauhaus, an authentic German restaurant near the Dom where meals are large and variations on the typical pork and potato dishes of the region. Continue on via Coblenz, Germany to the Rhine village of Boppard where we board our ship for a three hour Rhine River cruise past castles, vineyards, and picturesque villages. We will cruise the section of the Rhine where it is at its most romantic and includes a look at the famous Loreley Rock. You can just sit back, relax and drink in the scenery. After dinner on the Rhine while sailing, we overnight in Bingen, Germany.



Day 6—Saturday, May 23

After breakfast, continue on to Rothenberg ob der Tauber, the most perfectly preserved medieval town in Germany. There is plenty to see and do here whether it's exploring the town walls, visiting City Hall, or shopping. This evening, subject to availability, we enjoy a guided tour of town by the Night Watchman of Rothenberg. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight Altes Brauhaus - This family-run bed and breakfast hotel in Rothenburg ob der Tauber is a 3-minute walk from the historic market square. It offers quiet rooms and traditional charm. The Hotel Altes Brauhaus was built in 1698. It has bright, spacious rooms and apartments with scenic views. Some rooms have a balcony.

<http://www.altesbrauhaus.com/en/>



Day 7 — Sunday, May 24

Very early departure this morning as we drive from Rothenburg to Garmisch-Partenkirchen Germany. Check in at our Riessersee Hotel and transfer to the town of Oberammergau. 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. 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 Riessersee Hotel in Garmisch-Partenkirchen*



Switzerland Day 8—Monday, May 25



Leaving Germany, we spend the day traveling with a stop in the principality of Lichtenstein. Liechtenstein is a tiny nation about 7 miles wide and 14 miles long, known for the postage stamps they issue. Continue on into the beautiful land of Switzerland. Overnight in Beatenberg, the idyllic village in the beautiful Bernese Oberland, 600 meters above Interlaken. The gorgeous view of Lake Thun and the famous Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau are incomparable! Overnight in a Christian guesthouse on the side of the mountain.

Day 9—Tuesday, May 26

Today you are free to enjoy various Swiss options, including shopping in the town of Interlaken. 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.



This evening, enjoy our special Swiss folklore dinner in Interlaken complete with yodeling and other traditional Swiss entertainment. *Overnight in Beatenberg.*



Day 10—Wednesday, May 27

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.

We will then 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 11—Thursday, May 28

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. *Return back to Luederenalp for the night.*





Day 12—Friday, May 29

Leaving these Swiss hills, we head in the direction of Zurich. Here in Zurich we will take a walking tour of Anabaptist sites of interest. Visit the Grossmünster 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 Tauferhöhle, 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. *Overnight near Zurich airport.*



Day 13—Saturday, May 30

Bid farewell to the “old country” as we wing our way back from Zurich or Frankfurt, Germany to the USA.



Tour Guide—Marcus Yoder

We are pleased to have Marcus A. Yoder as our tour guide this year. Marcus is the Executive Director of the Amish and Mennonite Heritage Center and the Ohio Amish Library, and is active in preaching, teaching, and writing in the Mennonite Church. In 2010, Marcus graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor's Degree in history from Ohio State University and, in 2015, acquired a Master's Degree in the History of Christianity from Yale University.

Information and Conditions

- A passport valid until December 2020 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 December 2019

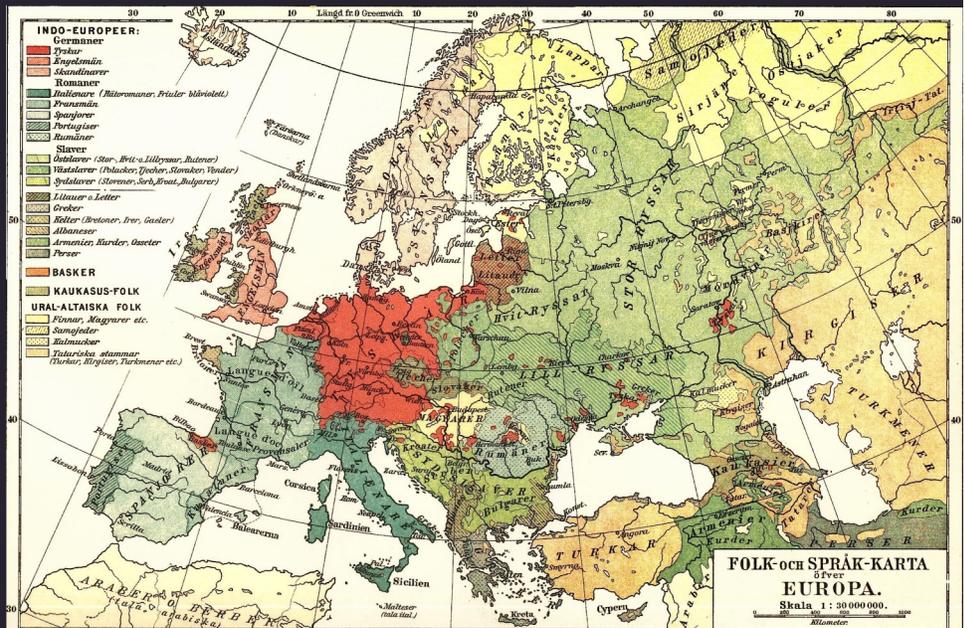
Price of \$3940 per person is based on Passion Play tickets with seating in TC2, does not include airfare, and is based on double-occupancy. Single occupancy is not available.

Price Includes:

- 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, Marcus Yoder
- Rhine River cruise
- All entrance fees as specified in itinerary
- Alpine cable car lift and train tickets in Switzerland
- Passion Play tickets

Price Does Not Include:

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



Payment and Cancellation Details

Last day to enroll is July 1, 2019 . In order to reserve a place on this tour, a \$500 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 July 1, 2019 when the remainder of the tour cost is due. 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 July 1, 2019 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%



Come with Us!

To enroll, simply mail a check for \$500 per person to Golden Rule Travel Ohio along with your name, address, phone number & email address:

Golden Rule Travel
Attn: 2020 Tour
P.O. Box 413
Berlin, OH 44610

If you have any questions, call Marvin Mast at (620) 200-5650.



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