

501st Anniversary Reformation Tour with FLBC

Retracing, Renewing and Reforming

August 6 - 15, 2018



Photo of Wittenberg's Market Square.

Hosted by Dr. Hans Wiersma

Sponsored by Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Program Highlights

Experience enrichment and fellowship traveling as a community under the leadership, hospitality and teaching of Dr. Hans Wiersma along with an FLBC leader.



Explore history, culture, architecture and music traditions in Prague, Dresden, Erfurt, Leipzig, Wittenberg and Berlin.



Begin in Prague for two nights traveling as a community to Dresden, Germany for one night stay followed by two nights in Erfurt and two nights in Wittenberg, ending with two nights in Berlin. Visits to Leipzig and Eisenach along the way.



Stay in select accommodations for nine nights in shared occupancy. Two nights at Colleg Wittenberg/Old Latin School, a Lutheran guest house and study center steps away from Wittenberg's Town Church. Seven nights in centrally located hotels. Single accommodations at supplemental cost.



Savor the local cuisine with 15 included meals of buffet breakfast daily, one lunch and five dinners.



Learn about the culture and people which gave rise to a tradition of reformers of church, education and government including the Peaceful Revolution of the late 20th century.



Journey in the comfort of a private motorcoach for all transfers and touring along with handling of one piece of baggage at hotels.



Be insured with group travel insurance from Cultural Insurance Services International.

Your Tour Host

Hans Wiersma teaches in the Religion Department at Augsburg University, Minneapolis. His specialty is Church History with a focus in Reformation Studies. He's written for a number of Luther-related publications and is co-author of *"Luther the Reformer: The Story of the Man and His Career"* (2nd Edition, 2016). He's a frequent visitor of Wittenberg and is looking forward to returning to "Luther Land" with church members and friends.

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp continues its work to provide international, educational, group building, environmentally sound programs for youth and adults. An FLBC staff person will lead the group building, devotions, worship, and reflective times to make your travels extra special. Come alone, bring family members or youth. We invite you to join us for this once in a lifetime travel experience! For Information:



Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp
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www.flbc.net



312-332-7027 • 800-541-7506 • travel@semint.com

Customized Program Itinerary

Special note: This travel program begins in Prague on Monday, August 6 with a group dinner at the NH Hotel in Prague and ends in Berlin on the morning of Wednesday, August 15 after breakfast at the Maritim proArte Hotel. Flights are not included. Participants are encouraged to contact a travel agent for booking flights once registrations reach a group size of 22. For this reason, registration by March 2 is very important. Seminars International will advise participants when to proceed with making flight arrangements.

Airport transfers are the responsibility of each participant and taxis/transfers are readily available in both Prague and Berlin for an estimated cost of \$30 to \$40 for up to three people. Individual flight schedules must be submitted to Seminars International no later than 45 days prior to departure.

Sunday, August 5 U.S. DEPARTURE. Departure day from the U.S. Flights arrangements are on own and not included in program cost.

Monday, August 6 PRAGUE ARRIVAL DAY. Participants arrive on individually booked flights into Prague airport and transfer on own to [NH Hotel](#) for check-in to get settled for a two-night stay. Perhaps enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings of the adjacent Mrazovka Park or take the funicular cable car between the two hotel buildings for a fantastic view over the city. Group gathers in hotel restaurant for an early dinner followed by brief meeting and then overnight at hotel in Prague. (D)

Tuesday, August 7 PRAGUE. Discover this historic and elegant baroque city while meandering through the narrow streets of Old Town on a morning walking tour. Cross historic and colorful Charles Bridge. Admire the Astronomical Clock Tower and view Our Lady Before the Tyn Church, the leading church of the Hussite movement for 200 years. Jan Hus, a national hero in Czechia, was a church reformer martyred 101 years before Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses. A statue of Hus is prominent in the Old Town square. Walk to Wenceslas Square, the lively boulevard where in 1989 peaceful protests led to the new free state of the Czech Republic. This afternoon and evening is free for individual exploration and shopping with lunch and dinner on own. During free time, perhaps explore the Jewish Quarter to learn about the community established here in the 12th century. Overnight at Prague hotel. (B)

Wednesday, August 8 PRAGUE/DRESDEN. Visit the grounds of [Prague Castle](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an eternal symbol of the Czech state and a cultural institution. According to the Guinness Book of Records, the Prague Castle is the largest continuous castle complex in the world. Depart the Czech Republic crossing into Germany and to Dresden, arriving at the [Maritim Hotel Dresden](#) for check-in. Evening free to wander Dresden and for dinner at one of the lovely outdoor cafes. Hotel amenities include a swimming pool. Overnight in Dresden. (B)

Thursday, August 9 DRESDEN/ERFURT. Morning walking exploration of Dresden led by Dr. Hans Wiersma. Discover this historic city and admire the remarkable rebuilding after the WWII bombing. Attend a brief noontime service at the Frauenkirche (Our Lady Lutheran Church) before traveling towards Erfurt for a reflective visit to [Buchenwald](#), the former concentration camp, now a memorial and museum. Among the quarter million prisoners was Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. After WWII, the site was used as a Soviet Special Forces prison camp for five years. Arrive at [Radisson Blu Erfurt](#), for check-in and dinner at a local restaurant in Erfurt. (B,D)

Friday, August 10 ERFURT/EISENACH VISIT. Leave Erfurt for a one-hour drive west to explore the [Wartburg](#). Luther's prince had him "kidnapped" after the Diet of Worms and taken here for protection. He assumed the name "Junker Jorg," grew his hair and beard, wore secular clothes and took advantage of the seclusion to create one of the most important works of his life, the translation

of the New Testament. The castle was built in the feudal period and is a UNESCO World Heritage site overlooking the town of Eisenach. After a tour of the castle, return to Erfurt for a visit hosted by a local guide of the Augustinian monastery, where Martin Luther entered the priesthood. Remainder of afternoon and evening is free for individual exploration in Erfurt. The hotel is centrally located in the walkable historic city center. For a view of the city, perhaps climb to the [Citadel of Petesberg](#), a unique example of the European style of fortress construction. (B)

Saturday, August 11 ERFURT/LEIPZIG/WITTENBERG. Leave Erfurt early this morning for a two-hour drive to Leipzig. In 1989, tens of thousands of East Germans citizens gathered in Leipzig's city center as part of the "Peaceful Revolution" that resulted in the Fall of the Berlin Wall. Stand in the rendezvous point for the gatherings at the Gothic St. Nicholas Church. Possible meeting with a local Leipzig pastor who was present during the Fall of the Wall. Explore this historic city on a walking tour with a local guide. Enjoy lunch at the historic Auerbachs Keller, made famous in Johann Wolfgang Goethe's *Faust*. Mid-afternoon attend the organ vespers at St. Thomas Church, where beginning in 1723, Johann Sebastian Bach served as cantor and choirmaster for over 25 years, and in Martin Luther preached a message of reform. Continue into Wittenberg arriving at [Colleg Wittenberg/Old Latin School](#) for check-in, dinner, group gathering and overnight. (B,L,D)

Sunday, August 12 WITTENBERG. Morning worship in the chapel at the Old Latin School followed by a group meeting to prepare for a walking tour of Wittenberg, co-hosted by a local guide and Dr. Wiersma. Explore and learn about the town where Martin Luther lived and taught for 36 years. Inside visits of Castle Church, also known as the "Theses Church," and St. Mary's (Town) Church. Tour the [Luther House](#), now a museum housing the world's largest collection of Reformation illustrations and manuscripts. Later lunch break today with the remainder of the afternoon and evening free for individual exploration. Consider visiting [360-Degree panorama "Luther 1517"](#), a work of art on the reformation and the life of Wittenberg's citizens at that time, or the Melanchthon House museum, home of Protestant reformer Philipp Melanchthon. Dinner on own and overnight in Wittenberg. (B)

Monday, August 13 WITTENBERG/BERLIN. Leave Wittenberg for the 90-minute drive to Berlin and begin an exploration of the city at Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church which was bombed during WWII leaving only the west tower standing. Visit the Museum at Bernauer Strasse, where a church was formerly located in the "no-man's-land" between East and West Berlin. Stop at St. Matthew's Church for a conversation about Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Continue to [Maritim Proarte Hotel](#) to check in for two-night stay. Remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure to explore Berlin. Hotel amenities include a swimming pool. Dinner on own. (B)

Tuesday, August 14 BERLIN. Panoramic tour this morning driving by the Reichstag and other government buildings with stops at [Checkpoint Charlie](#), the best known Berlin Wall crossing point between East Berlin and West Berlin during the Cold War and site of frequent intrigue between the United States and the Soviet Union, followed by the Brandenburg Gate and the Holocaust Memorial. Tour ends at Berliner Dom on Museum Island for noontime organ vespers. Free time this afternoon before gathering for farewell dinner. One option this afternoon is visiting the [dome of the Reichstag](#) (advance registration required). (B,D)

Wednesday, August 15 BERLIN DEPARTURE. Breakfast at hotel followed by check-out. Transfer to airport for flights returning to U.S. or other destinations are on own and not included. (B)

*Included meals: B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner
Itinerary subject to change due to local scheduling.
Click hotel names or other sites in blue for website link.*

Passport, Health, Insurance and Travel Information

U.S. citizens need a passport valid at least six months beyond the tour return date. Passport applications are available at the [U.S. Department of State website](#). There are no vaccination or visa requirements for U.S. citizens to enter Germany and the Czech Republic. Consult with your physician and utilize the information on Travelers' Health on the [Centers for Disease Control website](#) for advised precautions.

Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for their own passport and any visa requirements for the countries visited and must travel with a permanent resident card or other documentation to re-enter the U.S. Without proper documents, entry could be denied at participant's expense.

For international travel information including country specific background, travel alerts and travel warnings, refer to the U.S. State Department: www.state.gov/travel/.

Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) group insurance included in cost covers evacuation and major medical as described in Statement of Conditions. Cancellation insurance and coverage for pre-existing medical conditions is not included and highly recommended for health situations that may prevent you from traveling or interrupt your travels.

Travel Guard is recommended as a reliable provider of travel cancellation insurance. Access insurance options using this link to [Travel Guard](#) and completing a worksheet with your personal details. For questions about coverage, call Travel Guard at 800-826-4919 and use agency referral number 14847980 for Seminars International. When purchasing insurance, thoroughly read the coverage to ensure it meets your needs. Purchasing travel insurance within 15 days of enrollment may waive pre-existing medical conditions.

Travelers are required to walk significant distances including uneven surfaces, steps and inclines during parts of the itinerary. Consult with Seminars International or your tour leadership if you have concerns or questions about the amount and level of walking required to fully participate.

For travel and destination information, click website link: [Germany](#) • [Prague](#)

Further Information

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Registration

To secure registration, you must complete the enrollment form **and** pay the required deposit. You need passport details (unless applying for a passport) and emergency contact information to properly fill out the enrollment form.

Step 1: \$600 deposit due immediately to secure registration. Make check payable and mail to Seminars International, 55 E. Monroe, Suite 2870, Chicago, IL 60603. Please add **Tour# 5005** to the memo portion of your check

Payment is available by credit card at <http://www.semint.com/payments.html> or by calling 800.541.7506. A 3% service fee is added to all credit card transactions.

Step 2: If this is an electronic brochure, click below to fill out one enrollment form per person. The **T# is 5005**. A printed copy of the enrollment form is also available by contacting Jeaneen Lincoln at 800-541-7506 or jeaneen@semint.com. Deposit payment must be received within 10 days of completing enrollment form to maintain your registration. **A letter of confirmation is emailed after receipt of both the deposit and the enrollment form.** If program is full upon submitting enrollment form, you will be notified.

Passport Name: Complete this form with your **full name exactly as it appears on your passport**. Include your middle name or initial plus any suffix (Jr., Sr., or III) exactly as printed on your passport. If you do not have a passport at this time, enter your name exactly as it will appear on the passport. There may be a fee for any name changes.

[If this is an electronic brochure, click here for link to enrollment form.](#)

Note: If you need an electronic brochure, email travel@semint.com and reference T# 5005.

Program Cost

**\$2,750 Land-only when
registered by March 2**

**\$2,850 Land-only when
registered after March 2**

Supplement for single accommodations - \$425
Limited availability of single accommodations.

This land-only program cost includes gratuities and CISI group insurance (approx.\$75 value). Airfare and airport transfers are not included and are the responsibility of each participant.

Important note: Ages 15 and older are welcome and those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult of at least 21 years of age.

Program cost based on a group size of 22 and will increase if group size is smaller. Savings of \$175 per participant if group size reaches 27.

Statement of Conditions

Program cost and minimum number group size: \$2,575.00, based on a group size of 27 participants. \$2,750.00 based on a group size of 22-26. \$100 late registration fee after March 2. Program cost will increase if group size is smaller. *Program cost based on exchange rates and tariffs in effect as of August 2017 subject to change in the event that there is a fluctuation of more than 4%.*

Air transportation is not included in this land-only program. Participants are on own to purchase air tickets to begin the tour in Prague on August 6 and return from Berlin on August 15 or extend stay. Participants are encouraged to use a travel agent for booking flights once registrations reach a group size of 22. **For this reason, registration by March 2 is very important.** Seminars International will advise when to proceed with making flight arrangements. Flight schedules must be submitted to Seminars International no later than 45 days prior to departure.

Surface travel and transfers: By private, deluxe motorcoach for touring plus handling of one piece of baggage in/out of hotels except for arrival and departure days. Airport transfers are the responsibility of each participant and taxis are readily available in both Prague and Berlin for an estimated cost of \$30 to \$40 for transfers (up to three per taxi).

Accommodations and meals: Shared occupancy at hotels listed in itinerary or similar as hotels subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Single accommodations supplement is \$425.00 and limited. Buffet breakfast daily, one lunch and four dinners for a total of 14 meals as indicated in the itinerary. Upon request, Seminars International and sponsor/host(s) will try to pair participants traveling as a single with a roommate. There is no guarantee of a roommate and if one is not available, the single supplement is assessed at time of invoice. Some hotels provide a smaller room size for single occupancy.

Program arrangements: English-speaking professional tour manager in Prague, beginning with dinner at hotel on August 6 through hotel check-out in Berlin on August 15; use of audio headsets; inside visits described in itinerary include entrance fees or donations as needed; gratuities for tour manager/guides, motorcoach drivers, and hotel/restaurant wait staff. Note: Participants with special needs may incur surcharges for additional services. Handicap accessibility varies significantly from country to country.

Deposit and payment schedule: \$600 per participant due to secure enrollment no later than **March 2, 2018 as long as space is available.** A waiting list is maintained when registrations exceed 27. **Full payment due May 22, 2018.** Upon receipt of enrollment and deposit, a confirmation of registration is sent by Seminars International via email. Any payments by credit card incur an additional 3% to cover merchant fees. Invoices are sent in advance of final payment.

Group insurance: The following Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) group insurance coverage is included for each participant from August 5 to August 15. **This insurance does not include individual trip cancellation and pre-existing medical condition coverage, additional insurance is highly recommended.** Schedule of Benefits Policy # GLM N0496486A

Coverage and Services Maximum Limits:

- Accidental Death and Dismemberment Per Insured Person \$10,000.
- Medical expenses (per Covered Accident or Sickness).
- Deductible zero.
- Basic Medical \$100,000 at 100%.
- Home Country Coverage Limit \$10,000.
- Emergency Medical Reunion \$3,000.
- Team Assist Plan (TAP): 24/7 medical, travel, technical assistance.
- Emergency Medical Evacuation 100% of Covered Expenses.
- Repatriation/Return of Mortal Remains 100% of Covered Expenses.
- Security Evacuation (Comprehensive) \$100,000.
- Trip delay of \$100 per day to a maximum of \$500/5 days if delayed more than 12 hours.

Click here to access further information on travel insurance.

Trip delay: In the unforeseen circumstance your program experiences travel delays and unexpected expenses are incurred,

Seminars International will invoice participants for any additional costs associated with the delay minus the \$100 per day CISI trip delay coverage, if qualified. Obtaining additional travel insurance as recommended on page three may offset these expenses.

Cancellation and refund policy: Should cancellation occur prior to 120 days before departure, the initial deposit will be refunded less a \$100 fee per person. In addition to airline penalties, the following specified costs are non-refundable: **120-90 days = half of deposit; 89-75 days = full deposit; 74-46 days = 50% of program price; 45-31 days = recoverable costs only (possible forfeiture of entire program cost); cancellations received 30 days or fewer from departure will receive no refund. Cancellations must be submitted in writing; the date such notification is received by Seminars International, Inc. is the cancellation date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.**

Leadership: The person(s) identified as the leader/host is subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Seminars International. In the unlikelyhood of a change in leadership, a qualified replacement will be selected by the sponsoring organization or previous leader. Seminars International will operate the program as planned and is not responsible for the change in leadership. The cancellation and refund policy remain as stated.

Exclusions: Items not listed above, including but not limited to meals other than those indicated; beverages except at breakfast; air ticket; airport transfers; baggage handling at airport and upon arrival and departure days; optional entertainment and excursions; any baggage charges; all personal items, such as telephone calls, laundry expenses, individual room service; cancellation insurance; non-tour related gratuities; passport fees; increases in VAT or city/hotel taxes.

Management and responsibility: Seminars International (SI) acts only as an agent and neither SI nor any employee or appointee nor any other person, party or organization or agency collaborating with it is or shall be responsible or liable for any injury or loss, accident or damage, delay or deviation or curtailment, howsoever caused or arising or the consequences thereof, which may occur during any part of the travel or program or during such free time as the members may elect to spend independently on the program.

Deviations policy: Some participants may wish to arrive at the first hotel early or extend their stay at the final hotel. Every effort will be made to assist program participants who request special arrangements and a per person service charge may apply, plus any additional charges. Once the special arrangements have been finalized, any changes may incur additional costs. Please be advised that deviation from the group arrangements requires the services of staff time not calculated in the program cost. No refund is granted to participants who wish to omit portions of the itinerary. **All deviation and special requests must be submitted in writing by April 27, 2018.**

Seminars International

Seminars International, with over four decades of experience crafting faith-based, educational, performing arts and special interest programs on seven continents, is proud of a proven record in providing attention to detail, safety, security, creativity and value. Our services allow leaders to focus on the purpose and goals of their program while we take care of the travel logistics, providing peace of mind from beginning to end.

Custom Design - We design customized international programs sensitive to the needs and interests of a group while focusing on value and affordability.

Pre-Departure - Our services include customized travel e-packets and tour literature focusing on being prepared and responsible travelers.

While Abroad - Along with our Chicago-based team, our network of on-the-ground international partners and CISI Team Assist are prepared 24/7 to provide support and assistance, particularly with an emergency situation.

Program Evaluation - Upon return we invite you to complete an evaluation to share feedback on how we may enhance your experience in the future.