

Bentheimers International Society
Tour of Germany, Czech Republic and Austria
13 days from September 10 – 22, 2020

Organized by Friends of Bentheimers, Pathfinders Travel in Holland Michigan and Richters Reisen in Nordhorn Germany, as agents for the tour participants.

Day 1 (Sept. 10) Thursday: Depart from Michigan

Depart from Grand Rapids airport in the afternoon and fly to Detroit Metro Airport. Connect in Detroit to a nonstop flight to Amsterdam. Dinner will be served on the flight shortly after departure from Detroit, with overnight on board the flight

Day 2 (Sept. 11) Friday: Arrive in Amsterdam and travel to *Grafschaft Bentheim*



Arrive at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport in the morning, clear customs and board your private touring bus from Richters Reisen, with our favorite driver, Rolf, at the helm. Travel about two hours across The Netherlands and just over the German border to Nordhorn in the County of Bentheim, where we will stay at the comfortable Hotel am Stadtring right in the center of town. The afternoon will be free to visit Nordhorn or to relax at the hotel. Dinner will be included for the group, followed by a joint meeting with German members of the Bentheimers International Society, including time to visit with your family and friends from the area. Overnight at the hotel in Nordhorn. (D)

Day 3 (Sept. 12) Saturday: *Grafschaft Bentheim*

The day will be free to spend with your German family or friends. If you don't know if you have family in the County of Bentheim, BIS members will work with you to follow your genealogy to discover if you do have German cousins, so you could have the opportunity to meet them. And if you don't have family in Bentheim, you will be paired with a local family so you can visit their home and the county for the day. Overnight at the Hotel am Stadtring in Nordhorn. (B)

Day 4 (Sept. 13) Sunday: Travel to Berlin, Germany

Depart from Nordhorn this morning to drive to Berlin, the bustling capital city of Germany. We will stop on the way to visit the *Hermannsdenkmal*, (Herman Memorial), a colossal metal statue built in the 19th century to commemorate the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest (fought in AD 9), in which Germanic tribes led by Arminius ("Herman the German") annihilated three Roman legions. Arrive in Berlin late in the afternoon and check in at the hotel. Dinner is included this evening, with overnight at the hotel in Berlin. (B, D)

Day 5 (Sept. 14) Monday: Berlin

A local guide will join the group this morning for a sightseeing tour by bus of the highlights of Berlin. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall thirty years ago, West and East Berlin have integrated into a vibrant, unified city. Drive along fashionable Unter den Linden Boulevard and see the famous Brandenburg Gate; also see the glass-domed Reichstag building, where the German Parliament meets; visit a section of the Berlin



Wall that has been kept as a memorial, drive through the huge *Tiergarten* park and visit the moving Memorial to the Murdered Jews. The afternoon and evening will be at leisure to visit Berlin on your own – you might like to visit Museum Island to view an ancient bust of Queen Nefertiti or the monumental Ishtar Gate from ancient Babylon; visit the German Historical Museum for 2000 years of German history, or visit the *Gemäldegalerie* museum to see old masters paintings. Or you could take a stroll through the *Hackische Höfe* to enjoy the artsy courtyards and shops; or take a relaxing boat ride on the Spree River, go shopping in the lively streets around the *Gendarmenmarkt* or at the famous department store, KaDeWe. Find the perfect spot for dinner on your own in Berlin this evening. Overnight at the hotel in Berlin. (B)

Day 6 (Sept. 15) Tuesday: Travel to Dresden, Germany and Prague, Czech Republic

Depart from Berlin and travel a couple of hours to the beautiful city of Dresden. Meet a local guide for a short walking tour through the city center, to see the Baroque Zwinger, the Residence Palace and the beautifully reconstructed Church of Our Lady, a Lutheran church that was destroyed along with much of the rest of the city center during the Bombing of Dresden in 1945. The stones of the church were kept as a memorial for 50 years, and then reconstruction of the church was completed in 2005. After some free time for lunch on your own in Dresden, board the bus and continue traveling by way of the picturesque Elbe River and across the border to Prague, the elegant capital city of the Czech Republic. Dinner is included this evening; overnight at the hotel in Prague. (B, D)

Day 7 (Sept. 16) Wednesday: Prague

Spend the day in Prague. A local guide will join the group in the morning for a tour of this colorful city, including a walking tour of Prague Castle, which includes the Old Royal Palace, St. Vitus Cathedral (coronation church of the Kings of Bohemia), St. George's Basilica and the Golden Lane. Spend the afternoon as you like in the old town center, where you can walk across the Charles V Bridge, which is lined with statues; admire the astronomical clock in Old Town Square; visit the Jewish Quarter with old synagogues and a Jewish cemetery, or go shopping in the small streets and squares of the old town. Dinner is included this evening; overnight at the hotel in Prague. Enjoy views over Prague by night. (B, D)

Day 8 (Sept. 17) Thursday: Travel to Vienna, Austria

Depart from Prague this morning and travel through pretty Czech countryside and across the border into Austria, with Vienna as our destination today. We will arrive on the outskirts of Vienna by mid-afternoon for a tour of Schönbrunn Palace, the sumptuous summer home of the Hapsburg emperors. Join a guide inside the palace for a tour of the main rooms, with beautifully displayed furnishings of the Imperial family. There will also be some free time following the tour to visit the impressive gardens. Check in at the hotel in Vienna later in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Vienna, the capital city of Austria. (B, D)

Day 9 (Sept. 18) Friday: Vienna

Start the day in Vienna with a guided panoramic bus tour of the city in the morning, to include sights such as the Town Hall, the State Opera House, the giant Ferris Wheel at Prater park, Hofburg Palace and St. Stephen's Cathedral. This afternoon enjoy free time in the city center – you could visit the glittering Treasury at Hofburg Palace or tour the state apartments; visit the Museum Quarter, where you can choose between the Museum of Fine Arts, the Natural History Museum or Mumok Modern Art Museum; or do some shopping in the pedestrian zone of the old city center. Why not take a break in a Viennese café for a pastry and coffee? This evening enjoy a special evening out for dinner at a traditional Heuriger café in the vineyards on the outskirts of the city, to enjoy the new wine, local food and music. Return to the hotel in Vienna for overnight. (B, D)

Day 10 (Sept. 19) Saturday: Visit the Silent Night Chapel near Salzburg, Austria

Depart from Vienna and travel to the small Austrian village of Oberndorf, near Salzburg, which is home to the Silent Night Chapel. This special chapel was built with donations on the site of the original Church of St. Nicholas, where the beloved Christmas carol 'Silent Night, Holy Night' was first performed on Christmas Eve 1818. Take a tour of the chapel and visit the museum with exhibits on the history of the origins of the carol. Continue traveling a short distance further to the hotel in Bad Reichenhall, a small town on the outskirts of Salzburg. After dinner at the hotel, take a short stroll to the Royal Spa Garden, which was designed in 1868 and continues to be one of the most beautiful parks of its kind. Overnight at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 11 (Sept. 20) Sunday: Visit Salzburg, Austria

Travel the short distance to the center of Salzburg, where you will meet your local guide for a tour of the city, partly in the bus and partly by walking. The beautiful and compact city center is situated between the banks of the Salzach River and the Hohensalzburg Fortress, which sits on a high ridge above the town. Salzburg's old town was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997. See sights associated with both the movie *The Sound of Music*, and the world-famous composer, W.A. Mozart, who was born and lived in Salzburg. The afternoon will be at leisure in the city center; you could visit soaring Salzburg Cathedral; or stroll along the charming *Getriedegasse*, a pedestrian street with traditional wrought-iron signs and interesting shops; or take a horse & carriage ride through the town. Return to the hotel later in the day, where dinner awaits at the hotel. Overnight in Bad Reichenhall. (B, D)



Day 12 (Sept. 21) Monday: Visit Munich, Germany

Travel about two hours to Munich, the capital of the Bavaria region of Germany. Meet your local guide in Munich for a tour of this lively city, partly by bus and part walking. See the iconic Church of Our Lady and other sights in the city center, the Olympic Village, Nymphenburg Palace and much more. The afternoon will be free in the city center; you could visit one of the many fine art museums or car lovers will want to see the BMW Museum; or take a tour through the Residence Palace and Treasury room; or simply enjoy the pedestrian streets around the Marienplatz and Town Hall. Oktoberfest will be in full swing, so you might like to visit the festival site in the city center at Theresienwiese, where there are 14 beer tents plus fair grounds -- or simply visit the beer hall at the world-famous Hofbräuhaus. Check in at the hotel in the late afternoon. Enjoy a special dinner this evening in a local restaurant to mark the end of the tour together. Overnight at the hotel, most likely near the Munich airport.

(B, D)



Day 13 (Sept. 22) Tuesday: Fly from Munich back to Grand Rapids

After breakfast at the hotel, travel to Munich Airport and check in for the flight home. Fly from Munich to Detroit, with lunch and a snack provided during the flight. On arrival in Detroit you must clear through U.S. Customs before taking the connecting flight. Arrive in Grand Rapids in the late afternoon or evening. (B)

PLEASE NOTE

1. Luggage handling is not included in the tour arrangements. You must be able to carry your luggage from the bus into the hotel and back, plus you must be able to keep up with the group on the tours that include walking.
2. There will be a pre-departure meeting for all tour members in August 2020, to coincide with the annual BIS picnic.
3. You must have a passport to travel to Europe and your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the time of this tour. A photocopy of your passport's information page will be needed by Pathfinders Travel by June 1, 2020 at the latest.
4. Baggage per person is limited to one (1) suitcase and one (1) carry-on bag. The checked bag must weigh 50 lbs or less; the maximum size is 62 linear inches. Any charges levied by the airline for excess, oversize or overweight baggage will be the responsibility of the individual tour participants.
5. Any changes to the travel itinerary may incur additional charges.
6. Any deviation from the air transportation arrangements as scheduled for the group will incur an additional charge.
7. The price of the tour is based on the international exchange rate between the Euro and the U.S. Dollar at €1.00 = \$1.13. The price of the tour may increase or decrease, if the exchange rate between these two currencies changes more than 3% between now and the final payment date.

ESTIMATED Tour Price, including airfare: \$3,900.00 per person. This is the per person cost, based on two persons sharing a room at the hotels and a minimum of 40 persons in the group. A definite price will be determined in late October 2019 when group airfare becomes available for travel in September 2020.

The Tour Price includes the following services:

- Round-trip economy air transportation from Grand Rapids, Michigan to Amsterdam, The Netherlands with return from Munich, Germany to Grand Rapids via scheduled air carrier. Inquire for departure from other US cities. The airline provides dinner and continental breakfast on the flight to Amsterdam, and lunch and a snack on the flight back to Detroit.
- All current taxes, government fees and fuel surcharges associated with international air travel (taxes are subject to change until the tickets have been purchased).
- Transportation in Europe as outlined in the itinerary by chartered, First-Class motor-coach with WC/washroom. The motor-coach will be provided by Richters Reisen, a company located in Nordhorn in the Country of Bentheim.
- Accommodations for eleven nights in excellent mid-range hotels (3- to 4-Star ratings), based on double room occupancy (two persons sharing one room); all rooms will have private bath facilities. Single room occupancy is on request for an additional cost of approximately \$590.00 per person.
- Eleven Continental breakfasts at the hotels
- Nine Dinners either at the group's hotel or in local restaurants, as outlined in the itinerary. Dinner will be a 3-course set menu (appetizer, main course and dessert) including pitchers of water. Other beverages are available for individual purchase.
- All tax and service charge for included hotels and meal arrangements.
- Joint Meeting of the Bentheimers International Society in Grafschaft Bentheim
- Sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including entrance fees where needed: All tours will be conducted in English with a local, professional guide.
 - ✓ Half-day panoramic tour of Berlin with a local guide
 - ✓ Guided walking tour of central Dresden with a local guide (about 1.5 hours)
 - ✓ Half-day panoramic tour of Prague, including a visit inside Prague Castle
 - ✓ Entrance fee to Prague Castle and St Vitus' Cathedral
 - ✓ Entrance fee to Schönbrunn Palace with guided "Imperial" tour through 22 rooms
 - ✓ Half-day panoramic tour of Vienna with a local guide
 - ✓ Visit the Silent Night Chapel in Oberndorf with a short tour
 - ✓ Half-day guided tour of Salzburg
 - ✓ Guided tour of central Munich (about 2 hours)
- Pre-tour planning information
- Printed travel itineraries and two luggage tags for each tour participant
- A representative of Pathfinders Travel will escort the group throughout the tour.

The tour price does not include:

General exclusions to the tour price include, but are not limited to, expenses for a passport and/or entry visa (no special entry visa is required of U.S. citizens); all baggage handling; gratuity for the Coach Driver (recommended amount for this tour is about \$30.00 per person); optional travel protection plan; beverages, wines or liquors; any meals not specifically included in the tour package; additional food not included as part of a set meal for the group; laundry; telephone calls; any other expense of a personal nature and any item not specifically mentioned under the inclusions above.

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

- Deposit: \$500.00 per person to secure your place on the tour, along with a completed registration form (see page 7). *Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis!*
- Second Payment: \$500.00 per person is due by February 1, 2020
- Third Payment: \$500.00 per person is due by May 1, 2020
- Final Payment is due no later than July 30, 2020.

Please make checks payable to: Pathfinders Travel

Payment may be made by check or money order, or you may bring cash to Pathfinders Travel. However, *please note that credit cards cannot be accepted as payment for this tour.*

CANCELLATION POLICY

- All notice of cancellation must be received in writing by Pathfinders Travel.
- The following amounts are nonrefundable, per person:
 - If cancellation is received prior to November 15, 2019: \$50.00
 - If cancellation is received from November 16, 2019 to February 1, 2020: \$250.00
 - If cancellation is received from February 2 to May 1, 2020: \$400.00.
 - If cancellation is received from May 2 to July 30, 2020: \$500.00
 - If cancellation is received on or after July 31, 2020, there will be no refund.

RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility of the Friends of Bentheimers; Pathfinders Travel, Inc., 25 West 9th Street, Holland, Michigan 49423 USA and its suppliers is limited. Pathfinders Travel, Inc. acts only as agent for the participants in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motor-coach, private car, boat, aircraft or any other conveyance, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of any defect in any vehicle or conveyance or through the acts of default of any company of persons engaged in conveying the participants or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Pathfinders Travel, Inc. assumes no responsibility for loss or additional expenses due to any delay or changes in schedules. Pathfinders Travel, Inc. reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any person as participant in the tour and to make substitutions or change or withdraw the tour in the interest of the participants, as circumstances may demand.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN

Information for a Travel Protection Plan, to include coverage for trip cancellation, medical expenses and more will be provided to each person who registers for the tour. The purchase of insurance is optional but is highly recommended to protect your investment in this trip and for possible medical emergency while traveling. Note that if at least 10 persons wish to purchase travel protection, then a group plan can be offered.

REGISTRATION FOR THIS TOUR IS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS!

To sign up for the tour, please complete the registration form on the following page and return it to Susan Hunter at Pathfinders Travel with your check for the deposit payment.

For more information

Travel arrangements and payments will be managed by Pathfinders Travel. Please contact Susan Hunter with questions at (616) 396-1983 or by email: susan@pathfinderstravel.net
Mailing address: Pathfinders Travel, 25 West 9th Street, Holland, MI 49423

You may also contact Ken Rabbers at telephone (616) 396-6460 (or call (941) 483-9077 from October 2019 through April 2020) or via email at: kdr-hol@juno.com

Registration for Friends of Bentheimers' 2020 European Tour
September 10-22, 2020

Please print clearly and return this form with your deposit to Pathfinders Travel.

NAME(S) -- *Full Legal Name (first, middle, last) as it appears in your passport* Gender
If you already have a valid passport, please send a copy of the photo/info page with this form

1. _____ M F

2. _____ M F

BIRTH DATE(S) (Month, Day, Year): 1. _____ 2. _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: Home: (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____

EMAIL(S): _____

ROOMING PREFERENCE (please choose one):

- I will share a hotel room with: _____
- I do not have a roommate and would like to be paired up with another group member of the same gender, so we can share a hotel room.
- I prefer a single room and understand there is an additional charge

Do you have relatives or friends in County of Bentheim? YES NO

If yes, please indicate their name(s): _____

Do you plan to extend your stay and fly back to Michigan at a later date? YES NO
Would you like assistance with train travel, car rental, hotels, etc. after the tour? YES NO

A deposit payment of \$500.00 per person is needed to confirm your place on the tour. I have read, understand and agree to the terms of tour participation. The agreement will be effective when my deposit is received by Pathfinders Travel, Inc. and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Michigan.

Please make your check payable to Pathfinders Travel and send it with this form to the attention of Susan Hunter at Pathfinders Travel, 25 West 9th Street, Holland, Michigan 49423

Signature of Tour Participant(s): _____

Date: _____