

**Bentheimers Heritage Tour**  
*Norway, Sweden & Germany*  
14 days from September 20 – October 3, 2022

*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. 20) Tuesday: 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. 21) Wednesday: Arrive in Amsterdam and connect to Bergen, Norway

Arrive at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport in the morning and change planes for the 90-minute flight to Bergen, gateway to fjords on the west coast of Norway. Clear Customs and board the bus to drive into the city center, where we will stay for two nights. **Bergen** is Norway's second largest city with a population of about 270,000. King Olav Kyrre founded Bergen in 1070, and it was the country's capital from 1110 until 1299. This afternoon stroll through the center of town and take a ride on a traditional funicular railway to the top of **Mount Floyen** for a spectacular view over Bergen and its fjords. Enjoy the park and pose for pictures with the trolls. Return down the mountain by funicular and walk back to the hotel, where dinner will be served this evening. Overnight in Bergen. (D)



Day 3 (Sept. 22) Thursday: “Norway In A Nutshell”

The legendary **“Norway In A Nutshell”** tour takes you through Norway’s most breathtaking UNESCO-protected fjord and mountain scenery, as well as a trip on a historic cog-wheel mountain train. Take the train through the mountains from Bergen to Voss, then enjoy a bus ride from Voss via Stalheim down the mountain to Gudvangen, at the top of the fjord. In Gudvangen board the boat for a 2-hour cruise on the Nærøyfjord, the narrowest fjord in Norway, and then the wider Aurlandsfjord to the small town of Flam. After a short break in Flam, board the “Flamsbana” cog-wheel train for the steep and spectacular journey from the shores of the fjord to Myrdal, high in the mountains. Change to a modern train in Myrdal and then relax and enjoy the mountain scenery on the return to Bergen. Dinner at the hotel and overnight in Bergen. (B, D)

Day 4 (Sept. 23) Friday: Travel from Bergen to Oslo, Norway

Enjoy a guided walking tour (about 2 hours) through central **Bergen** this morning. *Bryggen / Bergen* is one of the most famous attractions in the city and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As a trade center for the Hanseatic League in the Middle Ages, former warehouses, trade and housing dominated Bryggen. In the late morning, transfer by bus from the hotel to the train station in Bergen, and board the Bergen to **Oslo** train, which is Northern Europe's highest railway. The seven-hour journey includes some of the most beautiful landscapes in Norway as the train passes through 180 tunnels and makes 22 stops. The highest point is the stop at Finse, with an altitude of 4000 feet! A café car on the train offers meals and refreshments. Arrive in Oslo in the early evening and transfer by bus to the hotel to check-in and have dinner. Overnight in Oslo. (B, D)

Day 5 (Sept. 24) Saturday: Oslo, Norway

**Oslo**, the capital city of Norway, is a vibrant city with a variety of activities and sights. Start the day with a guided tour of the city by bus, including a walk through the fascinating and beautiful Vigeland Sculpture Park. You will also see famous sights like the Royal Palace, the Nobel Peace Center, the Cathedral and the Opera House. The guided tour will end on Bigdoy Island, where entrance to the **Norwegian Folk Museum** is included for the group. In this open-air museum you can see how the Norwegian people lived since the 1600s to modern times, with 160 historic buildings grouped in city to farm settings. There is a beautiful "stave" church, a style of carved wooden church particular to Norway. Board the bus mid-afternoon to return to the hotel in central Oslo. The remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure, to explore the city center on your own, relax in a café, or buy some souvenirs. Dinner at the hotel; overnight in Oslo. (B, D)

Day 6 (Sept. 25) Sunday: Travel from Oslo to Karlstad, Sweden

This morning enjoy a relaxed drive from Oslo over the border into Sweden, with the town of **Karlstad** as today's destination. The journey takes about 3.5 hours through rolling farmland and forests, passing many lakes. Karlstad is a historic and pleasant town on the Klaralven River, near Lake Vanern, the largest lake in Sweden. This afternoon there will be a short tour of the town center by tourist train to see the main sights of the town and to learn more about the history of the area. The remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure to explore on your own. You could stroll along the river or take a boat-bus ride; visit the Varmlands Museum for exhibits on cultural history, art and architecture, and visit Karlstad Cathedral. Dinner at the hotel; overnight in Karlstad. (B, D)



Day 7 (Sept. 26) Monday: Travel from Karlstad to Stockholm, Sweden

After a morning's drive through Sweden, heading for Stockholm, stop for a visit of **Gripsholm Castle**, a royal palace dating to the early 16th century. Visit the impressive interior rooms, most of which are from the 18th century, and part of the Swedish National Portrait Gallery. Later in the afternoon, continue the short distance into the center of **Stockholm** and check in at the hotel. Dinner at the hotel; overnight in Stockholm. (B, D)

Day 8 (Sept. 27) Tuesday. Stockholm, Sweden

**Stockholm**, the capital of Sweden, encompasses 14 islands and more than 50 bridges on an extensive Baltic Sea archipelago. The cobblestone streets and ochre-colored buildings of Gamla Stan (the old town) are home to the 13th-century Storkyrkan Cathedral, the Kungliga Slottet Royal Palace and the Nobel Museum, which focuses on the Nobel Prize. A morning guided sightseeing tour will orient you to the city's sights. The tour will end at the **Vasa Museum**, where entrance is included to see a galleon war-ship that sank in the harbor on its maiden voyage in 1628. A massive undertaking to raise the ship took place in the early 1960s, and over time the entire ship was preserved and is now on display with artifacts found in and around it. The bus will return to the hotel in midafternoon, where the remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure. You might like to stroll around the Old Town, visit one of the many other museums in the city, or buy some souvenirs along Drottninggatan, one of the main shopping streets. Dinner at the hotel; overnight in Stockholm. (B, D)

Day 9 (Sept. 28) Wednesday: Travel from Stockholm to Berlin, Germany

This morning bid farewell to Sweden and take a short morning flight from Stockholm to **Berlin**, the capital city of Germany. Board the private touring bus from Richters Reisen at the Berlin Airport and travel into the city center. This afternoon a local guide will join the group for a tour of the Berlin Wall Memorial and other sites associated with the **Berlin Wall**. The famous wall divided the city from 1961 until 1989. The memorial retains a section of the wall and memorializes the many who tried to escape from East Berlin during those three decades. Later in the afternoon check in at the hotel in central Berlin – the Park Inn by Radisson Berlin Alexanderplatz, next to the iconic TV Tower. Dinner at the hotel this evening; overnight in Berlin. (B, D)

Day 10 (Sept. 29) Thursday: Berlin, Germany

Enjoy a morning guided tour of the highlights of **Berlin**. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall over thirty years ago, West & 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, 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 2,000 years of German history or visit the *Gemäldegalerie* museum to see Old Masters paintings. 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 or 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 11 (Sept. 30) Friday: Travel from Berlin to the County of Bentheim, Germany

Depart from Berlin this morning to drive to the town of Nordhorn in the **County of Bentheim**. 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”) defeated three Roman legions. Arrive in the County of Bentheim late in the afternoon and have dinner in a local restaurant. Transfer to the Hotel am Stadtring in central Nordhorn for check-in. Overnight in Nordhorn. (B, D)

Day 12 (Oct. 1) Saturday: County of Bentheim, Germany

Enjoy the morning in Nordhorn to visit the weekly market and stroll the pedestrian shopping streets in the town center. In the afternoon you could spend time with your German family or friends, or possibly an optional afternoon excursion will be offered in the area or across the border into The Netherlands. If you are not sure if you have family connections in the area, members of BIS will be able to do a genealogical search for your family. This evening there will be a Joint Meeting with local German members of the Bentheimers International Society. Overnight in Nordhorn. (B)



Day 13 (Oct 2) Sunday: County of Bentheim, Germany

The day will be free to spend with your German family and friends. OR, if there are many in the group who do not have local connections, an optional day trip will be planned to visit places of interest just over the border in The Netherlands, with dinner included prior to return to the hotel. Overnight at the Hotel am Stadtring in Nordhorn. (B)

Day 14 (Oct. 3) Monday: Fly Amsterdam to Grand Rapids

After breakfast at the hotel, board the bus and travel to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, about three hours from Nordhorn. Check in for the early afternoon flight departure to Detroit; lunch and a snack will be provided during the flight. On arrival in Detroit, clear through U.S. Customs before taking the connecting flight to West Michigan. Arrive in Grand Rapids in the evening. (B)

**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 page 7 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 with questions at telephone 616-396-6460 (or call 941-483-9077 from October 2021 through April 2022) or via email at: kdr-hol@juno.com

**ESTIMATED Tour Price, including airfare: \$4,765.00 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. If there are fewer than 40 persons in the group, the tour price will be somewhat higher.

*The Tour Price includes the following services:*

- Round-trip economy air transportation from Grand Rapids, Michigan to Bergen, Norway with return from Amsterdam, The Netherlands to Grand Rapids via scheduled air carrier. Inquire for departure from other US cities. Meals as provided by the airline on flights are included.
- One-way economy air transportation from Stockholm to Berlin via scheduled carrier
- All current taxes, government fees and fuel surcharges associated with international air travel (subject to change until the tickets have been purchased).
- Bus Transportation in Europe as outlined in the itinerary by chartered, First-Class motorcoach with WC/washroom. The motorcoach during the time in Germany will be provided by Richters Reisen, a company located in Nordhorn in the Country of Bentheim.
- Train transportation in Economy class from Bergen to Oslo with reserved seating
- Accommodations for twelve 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 \$800.00 per person.
- Twelve Continental breakfasts at the hotels
- Ten 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. All guided tours will be conducted in English with a local, professional guide.
  - ✓ Ticket round-trip for the funicular in Bergen to Mount Floyen
  - ✓ "Norway In A Nutshell" excursion including all transportation
  - ✓ Guided walking tour in central Bergen with a local guide
  - ✓ Guided tour of Oslo by bus with a local guide
  - ✓ Entrance ticket to the Norway Folk Museum in Oslo
  - ✓ Short tour of Karlstad by tourist train
  - ✓ Entrance ticket and guided tour of Gripsholm Castle
  - ✓ Guided tour of Stockholm with a local guide
  - ✓ Entrance ticket to the Vasa Museum in Stockholm
  - ✓ Guided visit to the Berlin Wall Memorial in Berlin
  - ✓ Half-day panoramic tour of Berlin with a local guide
- Pre-tour planning information, printed travel itineraries & 2 luggage tags for each participant
- Susan Hunter from 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 \$40.00 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 8). *Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis!*
- Second Payment: \$1,000.00 per person is due by May 16, 2022
- Final Payment is due no later than August 1, 2022.

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 after deposit is received and before May 16, 2022: \$300.00
  - If cancellation is received from May 16 to July 31, 2022: \$500.00
  - If cancellation is received on or after August 1, 2022, any refund will be dependent on the conditions of the suppliers in Europe and airline cancellation policy.

## **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, and on and off the train from Bergen to Oslo.
2. There will be a pre-departure meeting for all tour members in August 2022, intended 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 end date of this tour. A photocopy of your passport's information page will be needed by Pathfinders Travel by June 1, 2022 at the latest.
4. Baggage per person is limited to one (1) suitcase and one (1) carry-on bag. For the airlines, the checked bag may weigh up to 50 lbs maximum and 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 = \$1.20. 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.

## **TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN**

Information for a Travel Protection Plan, to include coverage for trip cancellation, medical expenses, baggage loss/delay 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. Plan cost is based on your age at the time of purchase and the total cost for the tour.

## **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.

**Registration for Friends of Bentheimers 2022 European Tour**  
September 20-October 3, 2022

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like 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: \_\_\_\_\_