About the Tour Hosts

Rev. Bob Burmeister has been a pastor at North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Hills, Minnesota for 35 years. Together Bob and his wife Jane have hosted eight international tours with CrossingBorders including tours to Scandinavia, Greece & Turkey, Italy and five to the Holy Land. They look forward to exploring Lutheran heritage and German history, art, architecture and culture with a group of approximately 25. All are welcome on this journey.
Day 1  Wednesday, October 10  Leave Twin Cities
Evening departure from the Twin Cities on Delta Air Lines/ KLM Royal Dutch Airlines flights to Berlin, Germany via Amsterdam. (meals in-flight)

Day 2  Thursday, October 11  Arrive Berlin
Evening arrival in Berlin. Welcome from German tour director and private motor coach for transfer into the city and check in to hotel followed by a dinner and a night's rest. (meals in-flight,D)

Day 3  Friday, October 12  Berlin - Wittenberg
Explore Berlin today stopping at Brandenburg Gate and passing by for an outside view of Kaiser Wilhelm Church which is currently under extensive renovations. Memorable visits to Checkpoint Charlie, the Museum at Bernauer Strasse and the Pergamon Museum. Perhaps a bit of free time in the late afternoon before continuing to nearby Wittenberg. Check in to Colleg Wittenberg for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Day 4  Saturday, October 13  Wittenberg
Today is in Wittenberg discovering Reformation history and the 36 years of Martin Luther’s life and ministry in the city. Begin at Castle Church where Luther posted his 95 Theses on October 31, 1517. At Lutherhaus, explore the museum of Reformation artifacts, housed where the reformer lived and worked. Visit the Town Church where Luther was married. Perhaps a presentation by Renate Skirl (former ELCA Wittenberg Center staff) on growing up as a Christian in the GDR. Evening at leisure for dinner on own. (B)

Day 5  Sunday, October 14  Leipzig - Dresden
Leave Wittenberg this morning driving to Leipzig. Attend Sunday morning worship at St. Thomas Church (in German) where J.S. Bach was cantor of 35 years. Visit St. Nicholas Church where the Peaceful Revolution began and perhaps meet with a local pastor to hear a first-hand account of the local events in 1989 that lead to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Continue to hotel in Dresden for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Day 6  Monday, October 15  Dresden - Erfurt
Walking tour in Dresden’s historic centre highlighted by a visit to the Frauenkirche which remained in ruins for decades after WWII until recent restoration. Drive from Dresden to the medieval city of Erfurt. Enjoy a city tour including the Augustinian Monastery where Martin Luther entered the priesthood. Check in to a centrally located hotel in Erfurt for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Day 7  Tuesday, October 16  Erfurt
Visit Buchenwald, the former concentration camp, now a memorial and museum. Among the quarter million prisoners were Lutheran pastors Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Paul Schneider. Continue to Weimar, the city of Goethe and classical German literature, for lunch on own and a free afternoon for shopping and individual exploration. Return to Erfurt for dinner on own and a free night watchman. Overnight in Rothenburg. (B,D)

Day 8  Wednesday, October 17  Eisenach Visit
Short morning drive to Eisenach. Visit Wartburg, the castle where Martin Luther went into seclusion after being excommunicated and then translated the New Testament into German. Lunch on own in city centre followed by a visit to the Bachhaus. Learn how the Bach family influenced the city’s church music for over 100 years before J.S. Bach’s birth in 1685. Explore the extensive exhibit and enjoy a 20-minute music recital. Return to Erfurt for dinner at local restaurant and overnight at hotel. (B,D)

Day 9  Thursday, October 18  Coburg - Rothenburg
Travel this morning to the city of Coburg to visit the fortress and time for lunch on own. Prominent residents of Coburg have included Martin Luther and Johann Strauss. Continue to Rothenburg ob der Tauber located on Germany’s Romantic Road. Dinner at the hotel followed by an evening tour of the city with the night watchman. Overnight in Rothenburg. (B,D)

Day 10  Friday, October 19  Heidelberg - Darmstadt
Leave Rothenburg this morning traveling further west to Heidelberg, a city fortunate to have escaped damage from WWII, retaining the narrow streets, picturesque houses and famous schloss from the late Middle Ages. Walking tour of the city and the castle ruins. Lunch on own with free time in Heidelberg. Continue to the Rhine River Valley and Darmstadt. Possible visit to the Convent of the Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary, a Lutheran-based religious order founded in Darmstadt by Sister Basilea Schlink. Dinner and overnight at Darmstadt hotel. (B,D)

Day 11  Saturday, October 20  Excursion to Mainz
Morning drive to nearby Mainz, a 2,000 year old city on the Rhine River. After extensive bombing during WWII, much of the city has been carefully restored. Visit St. Stephan’s Church, adorned with stained glass windows created by artist Marc Chagall. Visit the Gutenberg Museum, the city’s memorial to its native son, Johannes Gutenberg, and his historic invention, the movable type printing press. A visit to the massive Mainz cathedral concludes the city tour with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure for individual exploration. Final group dinner this evening at a local restaurant in the Rhine Valley. Overnight at hotel in Darmstadt. (B,D)

Day 12  Sunday, October 21  Return Home
Transfer to nearby Frankfurt airport this morning for flights back to the Twin Cities via Detroit. (B,meals in-flight)

Meals included:  B=buffet breakfast, D=dinner
Itinerary subject to adjustment as needed for operation.
Passport, Visa, Health & Travel Information

U.S. citizens need a passport valid at least six months beyond the tour return date. Passport applications are available at www.travel.state.gov.

Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for their own passport, visa and entry requirements. Without proper documents entry can be denied at tour member’s expense.

No vaccinations are required for U.S. citizens to travel to Germany.

This travel program requires walking on uneven surfaces including steps and inclines at times for significant distances and periods of one to two hours with periodic rests. If you have concerns about your abilities, consult CrossingBorders or the tour hosts.

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

Web sites of interest:
www.germany-tourism.de/eng
www.cometogermany.com
www.thomaskirche.org/
www.wittenberg.de
www.visitberlin.de

For Information

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Registration

An initial deposit of $500 per person is due immediately to secure reservation. Make check payable to CrossingBorders Escrow Account and mail to 7805 Telegraph Road, Suite 210, Bloomington, MN 55438-3408.

Full legal name as on passport  ☐ Male  ☐ Female

Nickname

Birth Date (month/day/year)

Spouse’s/Partner’s full legal name as on passport  ☐ M  ☐ F

Nickname

Birth Date (month/day/year)

Mailing address (No P.O. Box numbers)

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone (day)

Telephone (night)

Email

Roommate
☐ I would like assistance in finding a roommate.
   Note: an attempt to find a roommate will be made, however, cannot be guaranteed. Single supplement applies if no roommate.

☐ Please request single accommodations for me. I understand single accommodations are limited.

City of flight departure  ☐ Twin Cities  ☐ Other __________
I have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions.

Signature  Date

Signature  Date

Tour Cost
$3850 from Twin Cities
Additional costs
Airline/airport taxes - $183
Gratuities - $95

Single room supplement - $525
Strictly limited availability of single rooms.

Costs are current at printing, subject to change and based on a group size of 26.
CrossingBorders creates international tours for church-affiliated and educational groups. We encourage and support international travel for education, cultural exchange and spiritual enrichment. With our experience and resources we creatively bring people and places together, enriching lives through travel. Ultimately, we strive to earn the patronage and professional respect of our tour hosts and travelers.

Our Services
Design a travel experience sensitive to the needs and interests of a group.

Offer tours of value through our international network of preferred suppliers.

Manage each group program prior to tour, attending to the smallest of details.

Customize tour literature which focuses on being prepared and responsible travelers.

Encourage feedback from travelers to be responsive to changing interests and needs.

PLEASE NOTE  The tour and per person tour cost are based on current airfare from Twin Cities, shared occupancy, land costs and currency valuations as of December 2011, a minimum group size of 26, and subject to availability and change. For a group size of 21-25, a supplemental cost of $220 per person applies. Airline/airport taxes and fuel surcharges subject to change. A limited number of land only spaces are available; contact CrossingBorders for availability.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST  Airline/airport taxes, gratuities, luggage handling at airports, single room, meals, transfers and sightseeing not specifically mentioned, beverages, passport fees, insurance, excess baggage, items of a personal nature. Land only registration requires a $100 fee and must be requested in writing at time of registration; does not include arrival and departure transfers if different than group.

PAYMENT  Deposit of $500 due immediately to secure registration. Registration less than 60 days prior to departure subject to a fee. Within 30 days of departure, no registrations accepted. Final payment including additional costs invoiced and due July 16, 2012. To offer this group cost, both the deposit and final payment by check only; credit cards not accepted.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS  Airfare is based on tour members departing Twin Cities on the same day; a limited number of departures from other cities are available on this group airfare. A limited number of air ticket extensions are available on this group airfare. Requests for special arrangements to extend stay must be in writing and a minimum $100 per tour member service fee applies in addition to airline service fees and charges. Contact CrossingBorders for rules, fees and availability for special arrangements.

OPTIONAL INSURANCE  Optional insurance for baggage, health and trip cancellation is available and recommended; an application is provided at time of registration. Purchasing travel insurance within 21 days of registration may waive pre-existing medical conditions. Contact CrossingBorders for further information.

REFUND POLICY  Cancellations received in writing by June 8, 2012, a $100 fee applies plus unrecoverable deposits. June 9 - September 7, 2012, cancellation fees increase to loss of deposit plus any unrecoverable air and land service payments. After September 7, no refund. Airline tickets are issued in advance and are nonrefundable. No refund for any unused portion of the tour due to the special contracts for tour features, commitments to other tour members, and the services rendered on behalf of all tour members by CrossingBorders. Optional insurance is highly recommended.

RESPONSIBILITY & WAIVER  I hereby waive all claims in connection with the forgoing. CrossingBorders, Inc. acts only as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. Neither CrossingBorders nor its employees or agents, nor any other person, party, or entity associated with it shall be responsible or liable for any injuries, damages, accidents, expenses, delays, schedule or itinerary changes, damage to person or property, or any other loss or inconvenience arising out of or in connection with any transportation, accommodation, meals, tours, or other services that relate to the travel program or are referred to herein, or that occur during free time the members may have on the tour. CrossingBorders reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to make changes in the itinerary whenever changes are warranted or deemed appropriate and withdraw participation of any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the group.

December 2011