

# Mast European Heritage Tour



*Guggisberg, Switzerland*

July 14-28, 2020

*This tour will visit historic Anabaptist sites in Switzerland, France, Germany, Austria, and Liechtenstein including ancestral villages where our Mast/Maust ancestors lived. The above photo is Guggisberg, Switzerland, where the Mast family lived before coming to America.*

## **Tuesday, July 14, 2020**

Fly to Europe—parking will be available at Morgantown, Pa., where a chartered bus will take us to the airport.

## **Wednesday, July 15, 2020**

Arrive at the Zürich Airport in the morning and drive to the Rhinefalls at Schaffhausen—the largest waterfalls in Europe for some walking exercise. Our delicious lunch will be at our friends, Hans and Lydia Baumgartner-Flachsmann, who will serve Alpensoup, Swiss Bratwurst with homemade bread, and a scrumptious Swiss dessert. Then it is on further to enjoy our cablecar ride at Felsenegg to overlook the Zürich Sea and city.

## **Thursday, July 16, 2020**

A drive into the Swiss countryside will take us to the *Täuferhöhle* (Anabaptist Cave) where Anabaptists are known to have worshipped in secret. As we hike up the hill past cows with ringing cowbells, we consider the freedom we experience today to worship unmolested in stark comparison to how the Anabaptists hiked to this cave at night where they secretly worshipped. After a meal at a the nearby restored mill, we will continue on to the city of Zürich—the birthplace of Anabaptism in 1525—for a walking tour to see the Fraumünster Cathedral with its' five famous stained glass windows by Marc Chagall, and the Grossmünster Cathedral with its massive bronze cast doors depicting the Reformation story, the memorial stone along the Limmat River—site where Anabaptist Felix Manz was drowned in 1527, and where Preacher Hans Landis was beheaded in 1614.



*Memorial plaque along the Limmat River in Zürich showing the site where early Anabaptist Felix Manz was drowned in 1527. The Grossmünster Cathedral is in the distance.*

As we walk the same cobblestone streets our ancestors walked, this journey becomes a spiritual journey.

## **Friday, July 17, 2020**

Driving east this morning, we travel through the small country of Liechtenstein with a stop, of course! Our early afternoon arrival at Innsbruck, Austria, will give



us time to see the Old Town Quarter including the famed Golden Roof with gold copper tiles built in 1496.



## **Saturday, July 18, 2020**

Today is a special day as we drive north into Germany to attend the world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play given since 1634! This is a much-anticipated reenactment of the crucifixion of Christ—from His entry into Jerusalem to the Resurrection—performed only once a decade in the quaint Bavarian village of Oberammergau. The play begins in the afternoon followed by a three-hour early dinner break and concludes in the evening. This is a great memorable event that draws thousands around the world.



*Walking up to the Anabaptist Cave is certainly a rewarding accomplishment!*



**Sunday, July 19, 2020**

We enter Germany this morning as we head for our first stop at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site. This sober visit is geared for teens and adults, but a unique educational experience can be provided for any children along on this tour. Our hotel tonight will be in the city of Worms near the famed Worms Cathedral and the Martin Luther monument surrounded by the main forerunners of the Reformation.

**Monday, July 20, 2020**

Our first stop this morning will be at Weierhof for a walking tour of this old town that was originally a monastery destroyed in the Thirty Years' War. It was settled in 1682 by Kraybill and other Mennonite families from Switzerland. Then a drive up along the Rhine River before a relaxing afternoon cruise on the Rhine River that will take us past the same castles that our ancestors passed when they were on their way to America. Our destination is the grape vineyard town of Rudesheim where we sleep at a hotel along the Rhine River.

**Tuesday, July 21, 2020**

This morning, we visit the Schowalter family who now own Ringweilerhof (today it is a hog farm) where Immigrant Nicholas Stoltzfus lived and worked before coming to America. Then, we say goodbye to Germany as we drive to Obernai, France, for our overnight lodging—you are sure to enjoy this old walled town and do some French shopping—a great place for the shoppers in our group! Watch for the beautiful storks in this part of Europe.

**Wednesday, July 22, 2020**

After re-entering Switzerland, our first stop is in Bern, the capital of Switzerland. Lunch and some free time will be spent in the



*Ringweilerhof—home of Immigrant Nicholas Stoltzfus before coming to Pa.*



downtown area to watch the famous clock tower turn to a new hour, enjoy the bear pits, and tour the impressive cathedral. A visit to a local cheese factory will give us the opportunity to sample the delicious Swiss cheese and even purchase some shrink-wrapped cheese to carry home. We will also visit the old Trachselwald Castle built in 1200 A.D. where Brechbill, Mosimann, Leichy, and Sommers Anabaptists were imprisoned. The prison cells that were there in the 1500s and 1600s can be seen yet today. On one of these nights in the Emmental, Switzerland, we will be treated with delightful yodeling and alpenhorn music!

**Thursday, July 23, 2020**

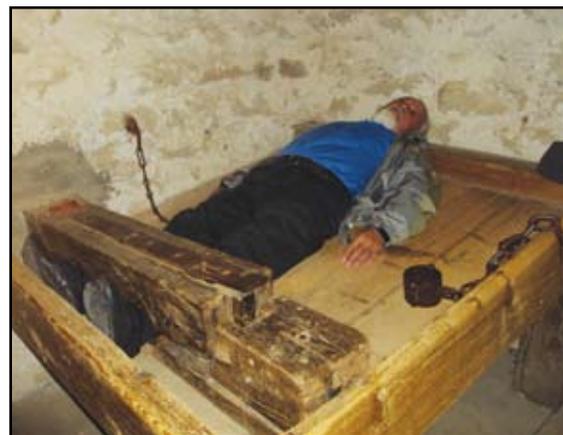
Today will be extra special as we visit the Schwarzenburgerland area of Switzerland. Here among the hills and valleys is where our Mast family originated. Some have remained, and others have left for other countries. We will visit the town of Guggisberg where in the town hall we can see a large plaque with the following family names who have lived in this region: Beyeler/Byler, Hostettler, Marti, Mast, Mischler, Steiner, Weber, Wenger, and many others. Yes, it feels like we are back home in Pennsylvania because this is where our Mast roots started! We will also visit the farming hamlet of Winterkraut where the father of Immigrant Jacob Hochstetler lived and was an Anabaptist leader. Our lunch will be at the Kambly Swiss Cookie Factory where we sample lots of different Swiss cookies (free)! This afternoon, we visit our friends Simon and Regula Fankhauser who live at the *Täuferversteck*—a hiding place for Anabaptists. On our way back to our hotel, we will stop at Langnau—home of the oldest, continuous Mennonite church in the world! The cemetery across the road reveals names such as Amstutz, Gerber, Hirschy, and Lehman.



*Famous 13<sup>th</sup> century Clock Tower in the city of Bern that was seen by our ancestors before they came to America.*



*We climb to the top of the **Trachselwald Castle** tower to see where Anabaptists were imprisoned in the 1500s.*



*It is a solemn moment to consider placing one of our group into the stocks in an old prison cell at **Trachselwald**.*

**Friday, July 24, 2020**

This morning we will stop at Signau where our Zaugg/Zook ancestors lived and also visit a cowbell factory before driving through beautiful farmland on our way to Steffisburg where Kauffmans, Kings, Lehmans, Yoders, and Zauggs/Zooks lived and even served in the government before forced to leave their homeland and flee to America. We will visit the Steffisburg Reformed Church before driving into the Simmental region and stop at Erlenbach where Jakob Ammann was born. Those who wish will climb to the top of the Thun Castle (museum)!

**Saturday, July 25, 2020**

A morning stop at Interlaken before we visit the mountain village of Grindewald (Schmuckers lived here) and then on to



*The Thun castle where Anabaptists were chained in the prison towers.*

Lauterbrunnen to take a scenic cable car ride up to the mountain town of Mürren where we will see beautiful views of the Swiss Alps and sleep there!



*Luzerne, Switzerland*

**Sunday, July 26, 2020**

Our morning worship this morning will on the top of the Schilthorn—another cablecar ride higher up into the Alps where



*Mürren, Switzerland*



*Ballenberg (open air museum)*

we eat breakfast in a revolving restaurant. The spectacular views of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau snow-capped mountains plus more than 200 other summits are awesome! After descending from Mürren, we drive to the Ballenberg Open Air Museum—also called the “Williamsburg of Switzerland”—where we stroll through many paths to view the 100+ buildings that are centuries old from all over Switzerland, enjoy the farmyard animals, traditional and old-time

gardens and fields, and demonstrations of local crafts—all to create a vivid impression of rural life in days gone by. Enjoy the cheese fondue dinner tonight!

**Monday, July 27, 2020**

Today we visit Luzerne—the first city in the Swiss Confederacy—where the famous wooden chapel bridge dating to 1333 welcomes us with its painted gables. Wait till you see the unique paintings on buildings, but also do some last-minute shopping before flying home tomorrow. But before arriving at our hotel, we will visit the small town of Hirzel—the hometown of the Landis family—and also where Johann Spyri lived and wrote the book *Heidi*. The Hirzel Reformed Church was built from money confiscated from Landis Anabaptist families who were forced to leave Switzerland. We will also walk up to the house of Preacher Hans Landis—the last Anabaptist to be martyred in Switzerland. Tonight, we will enjoy a good-bye party with lots of memories that will go with us the rest of our life!

**Tuesday, July 28, 2020**

Fly home from the Zurich, Switzerland, airport. This memorable experience of visiting Europe needs to end some time!



— TOUR FEATURES AND CONDITIONS —

**TOUR PRICE:** \$5,100.00 per person based on double occupancy (add \$800 for a single room — not available while at the Passion Play). A chartered bus from Morgantown to the airport will transport tour participants to and from the airport. No cost to park your vehicle at Morgantown. The projected cost for bus transportation to and from the airport will be about \$60 roundtrip per person (depends on the number of persons).

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:** Tour price includes U.S.A. departure tax with air included from the U.S. to Europe.

**MEALS:** Continental breakfast each morning and dinner each evening (excludes beverages) is provided. Lunch is on your own, although suggestions will be given.

**BAGGAGE:** Motorcoach capacity limits tour participants to one large suitcase per person plus a carry-on bag, so only one large suitcase plus “underseat” baggage, **please**. The airlines permit baggage with a combined length, width, and height of 106 inches provided no bag exceeds 62 inches, plus “underseat” baggage with total dimensions of 45 inches, and cannot weigh more than 50 pounds.

**SIGHTSEEING AND ENTRANCE FEES:** A coach driver driving a private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach with additional local guides where necessary. Entrance fees are included to all places mentioned in this itinerary.

**TIPS AND TAXES:** Applicable taxes and service charges for program features are included. All tips to hotel staff for included services and meals and to bus driver are included.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Passport fee, travel insurance if your situation deems necessary, meals at noontime, beverages with included dinners, and personal expenses.

**DEPOSIT AND PAYMENTS:** A deposit of \$600.00 per person is requested to hold space on the tour. The remaining \$4,500 will be due before or on January 1, 2020, as space permits. Reservations will be accepted after January 1, 2020, although the cost of the airline ticket *may* increase pending availability.

**CANCELLATION CONDITIONS:** Full refund granted if cancellation is received by January 1, 2020. Cancellation after January 1, 2020, will result in a full refund less airline ticket.

A valid passport is required. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one immediately, available at your local courthouse. If you have a passport, please verify that it is valid until at least December 31, 2020. No visa is required.

ALL RATES AND FARES ARE CALCULATED ON PRICES IN EFFECT AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2018, AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. TOUR PRICE IS BASED ON PARTICIPATION BY AT LEAST 35 PERSONS.

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Please reserve space for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s)  
on the 2020 Mast European Heritage Tour.  
Check should be payable to **“Mennonite Family  
History.”** Enclosed is my deposit check of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_. (\$600.00 deposit per person)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone & e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_