

Brubaker European Heritage Tour



Lake Zürich, Switzerland

September 6-19, 2024

This 14-day tour will visit historic sites in Switzerland, France, and Germany, including ancestral villages with an emphasis on the Brubaker/Brubacher family who lived near Lake Zürich, Switzerland, before emigrating to Germany and France and then on to America.

~ Lemar and Lois Ann Mast and Ken Brubaker, Tour Guides

Friday, September 6, 2024

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

Saturday, September 7, 2024

Arrive at the Zürich, Switzerland, Airport and drive to the Rhine-falls at Schaffhausen to see the largest waterfalls in Europe and stretch our legs after the long airline flight. Our delicious homemade lunch will be at our friend Lydia Baumgartner-Flachsmann's home who will serve homemade *Alpensoup*, Swiss Bratwurst with homemade bread, and a scrumptious Swiss dessert. Then before arriving at our hotel, we will enjoy a cablecar ride at Felsenegg to overlook the Zürich Sea. For our first three nights, we will sleep in the same area where our Bruppacher ancestors lived in Switzerland.



*We will see this **Bruppacher** farm near Horgen.*

Sunday, September 8, 2024

Today is a very special day as we visit a number of areas where we know Bruppachers lived. First stop will be a Bruppacher farm near Horgen, Switzerland. Then it is on to Wädenswil where our ancestor Petter Bruppacher (1595-1669) was born. Petter farmed nearby and was an Anabaptist preacher. On May 3, 1637, he was imprisoned in Wädenswil with Hans Landis of Hirzel, and later transferred to the Oetenbach Prison in Zurich where he stayed 40 weeks. We also will visit Hausen not far from Wädenswil where other later generation



Brubakers lived. Then it is on the other side of the lake to visit the Kittenmühle (an old mill turned into a restaurant today). We will eat lunch here! Not far is an old Bruppacher Bridge. We are walking on the same ground where our ancestors walked! Another site to visit today is Hirzel—the hometown of Johanna Spyri, the author of Heidi, where we will see the Hirzel Reformed Church built from money confiscated from Anabaptist families who were forced to leave Switzerland.



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

Monday, September 9, 2024

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 un-molested 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



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



Lucerne

Anabaptism in 1525—for a walking tour to see 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. As we walk the same cobblestone streets our ancestors walked, this journey becomes a spiritual journey.

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Our first stop this morning is at Einsiedeln, the site of a monastery founded in 934 in Canton Schwyz. Then it is on to Luzerne—where the famous wooden chapel bridge dating to 1333 welcomes us with its painted gables. This is also a delightful old city to relax, walk through the city streets to see unique paintings on buildings, and do some shopping. An afternoon drive will take us to Brienz where we enjoy a swiss cheese fondue dinner and be treated to some Swiss music!

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

The “Williamsburg of Switzerland” is on our itinerary this morning as we visit Ballenberg (an open air museum) to view more than 100 buildings that are centuries-old from all over Switzerland,



Müren



farmyard animals, traditional and old-time gardens and fields, demonstrations of local crafts and other special events create a vivid impression of rural life in days gone by. We are in for a delightful surprise this afternoon and evening as we take a scenic cable car ride up to the mountain-top village of Müren reached by cogwheel rail. Müren is circled by the kind of mountain panorama you only dream about with bell-ringing cows, Alpine wildflowers, waterfalls, quiet hiking trails—all a fairy-tale Switzerland!

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Our breakfast this morning will be on top of the Schilthorn summit after taking another cablecar ride higher up into the Alps to eat in a revolving restaurant. The spectacular views of the Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau snow-capped mountains plus more than 200 other summits are breathtakingly awesome—especially if the weather is clear! This is where James Bond’s film “On Her Majesty’s Secret Service” was produced. Our first stop after our descent is at the Thun Castle—an amazing museum today, but already in 1532, it was used to chain Anabaptists in the prison tower.

Friday, September 13, 2024

One of the highlights of this tour is when we watch the *Alpabfahrten* (cows come down off the high mountain for the winter) and walk right past our hotel. This afternoon, we are off to Kambly Swiss Cookie Factory where we sample (free) lots of different Swiss cookies! Then we are off to 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 the Glockengiesserei Berger (factory store for cowbells) to buy any size of a cow bell!



The **Thun Castle** where Anabaptist Joders and others were chained in the prison towers.



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**.

Saturday, September 14, 2024

Our first stop for the day is at the old Trachselwald Castle built in 1200 A.D. where Brechbill, Mosimann, Leichty, and Sommer Anabaptists were imprisoned in prison cells that can be seen yet today. Then it is on to one of our favorite shopping places—the Jakob Markt—where the locals shop! While most of us shop, the rest can drink a cup of free coffee. If you always dreamed of purchasing Swiss lace curtains, this is the place! And the variety of Swiss chocolate bars and delicious Emmental Tea will also help to fill your luggage to take back home. Then it is north to stop at the Emmentaler Schaukäserei (cheese factory) for lunch before our afternoon drive north to Liestal to visit the Bienenberg Bible School where we will stay overnight.



Storks in Alsace, France.

Sunday, September 15, 2024

Following our morning worship service, we will say goodbye to Switzerland, and enter France. Our lunch stop will be at the Stork Park near Hunawihr, France, for a delightful nature stroll to see free-roaming storks (200+), ducks, European otters, and other animals as we hike through the shaded paths. Enjoy the native delicious *Flamenkuchen* for lunch before we head north to the French town of Ribeauvillé where Peter Bruppacher (1595-1669) lived for a few years after he was banned from Switzerland because of his faith. In 1651, Peter's three sons are thought to have joined him at Rappoltswiler (now known as Ribeauvillé). By 1661, Peter and his family are living at Ibersheim, Germany. But tonight we will sleep in France.

Monday, September 16, 2024

Entering Germany this morning, the countryside changes as we drive to Weierhof to visit this unique village and meet Gary Waltner, retired curator of the Mennonite Research Center who will introduce us to research on the Bruppachers who moved from Switzerland to this area before emigrating to America. Then it is on to visit the nearby town of Ibersheim where Peter Bruppacher leased a farm for 12 years. In 1668, Peter died here at age 72. Many of his grandchildren moved to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Our hotel for the next two nights is in the city of Worms right next to the famed Worms Cathedral and within walking distance of the Martin Luther Monument surrounded by the main forerunners of the Reformation: Peter Waldo, John Wycliffe, Jan Hus, and Girolamo Savonarola.



The Glockengiesserei Bell Factory at Barau is our opportunity to purchase cow bells.

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

This morning we drive north to St. Goar along the Rhine River where we board our cruise ship for a relaxing cruise that will take us past the same castles that our ancestors passed when they were on their way to America. But we will not be required to stop and pay a tax at every castle like our ancestors were required to pay. Preliminary plans are in process to enjoy an International Brubaker Reunion at Albisheim today.

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

We head south this morning and stop at Schriesheim—birthplace and home of Alexander Mack (1679-1735), the founder of the Church of the Brethren. Then drive further south into the Black Forest to shop for cuckoo

clocks before continuing on south into Switzerland for our last night in Europe. Tonight, we will enjoy a good-bye party with lots of good memories that will go with us the rest of our life!

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Fly home from the Zurich Airport with many good memories.



The oldest building in Ibersheim, Germany, where the Bruppachers lived.



One of the many castles that we will pass by on our Rhine River cruise. This toll castle was built between 1326 and 1327 and is called the Pfalzgrafenstein Castle.



Grape vineyards along the Rhine River.



Lovely Swiss Edelweiss,



Colorful flower boxes are everywhere!

— TOUR FEATURES AND CONDITIONS —

TOUR PRICE: \$4,950.00 per person based on double occupancy (add \$800 for a single room). A chartered bus from Morgantown will be available to transport persons to and from the airport. Vehicles may be parked cost-free at Masthof (Morgantown, Pa.) while we are in Europe. 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: Airfare and USA departure tax included in tour price.

MEALS: Continental breakfast each morning and dinner each evening (excludes beverages) are provided. Lunches are on our own, although suggestions will be provided.

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**. Airline baggage limits apply to the tour: luggage may not exceed a combined length, width, and height of 106 inches provided no bag exceeds 62 inches in width. The carry-on bag total dimensions limit is 45 inches, and cannot weigh more than 50 pounds.

SIGHTSEEING AND ENTRANCE FEES: 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 are not included. Details on the use of credit card and using the country’s currency will be provided closer to our departure.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$450.00 per person is requested to hold space on this tour. The remaining \$4,500 will be due on or before January 1, 2024, as space permits. Pending availability, reservations will be accepted after January 1, 2024, although the cost of the airline ticket portion of the tour price may increase.

CANCELLATION CONDITIONS: Full refund granted if cancellation is received by January 1, 2024. Cancellation after January 1, 2024, will result in a full refund less airline ticket cost (although airlines usually do offer a voucher for amount of ticket for future use),

A valid passport is required. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one immediately. If you have a passport, please verify that it is valid until at least December 31, 2024. No visa is required.

ALL RATES AND FARES ARE CALCULATED ON PRICES IN EFFECT AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023, AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. TOUR PRICE IS BASED ON THE PARTICIPATION OF 35 PERSONS.

Mennonite Family History, 219 Mill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543-9516 • mast@masthof.com • 484-798-8556

Please reserve space for _____ person(s) on the 2024 Brubaker European Heritage Tour.

Check should be payable to “**Mennonite Family History.**” Enclosed is my deposit check of \$ _____. (\$450.00 deposit per person)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone & E-mail: _____