

**Research and Travel**

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# The Route of Emigration

## Heritage, History, Culture, Landscape

Oldenburg, Osnabrück, East-Frisia, Bremen, Bremerhaven

9 Days field trip in the Northwest of Germany

May 03<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2010



Many of the 7 million Germans who emigrated to America originated from Oldenburg, Osnabrück / Westphalia, East-Frisia and the surroundings of the former Kingdom of Hannover. Your itinerary brings you to farms, former emigrant agencies in country-side inns and to the noble's Baroque gardens in these not yet discovered areas of Germany. During your tour the land will speak to you of the growth of „emigration fever“. Meet people at their farm, learn about living conditions a hundred and fifty years ago, understand the motivation to leave one's home and how the journey was organized. Sailing out of Bremerhaven and a farewell dinner in the steerage section of an old sailing vessel will complete your fantastic route through some of Germany's most important areas of emigration.



## Itinerary

### **Day 0 Transatlantic Flight from USA to Germany or individual travel to Bremen**

Depart via any gateway city and arrive Germany at Bremen airport the next day. All major airlines have connecting service to Bremen. Intercity Express trains from all major German cities arrive at Bremen Central station every hour.

### **Day 1 Mon. May 03 Welcome to Bremen, Germany**

Incoming flights from the US arrive at Bremen airport via Frankfurt, Amsterdam, London or Hamburg. Transfer to your hotel is on your own (Airport: 20 min taxi ride, Central Station: 5 min walking). Detailed information and hotel address will be provided with booking / confirmations. Check in and relax or spend time on your own. Hotel has a welcome package for you.

Your program starts at 3 pm at your hotel. You will be met by your tour director during a welcome reception and a tour orientation. Included is a *'Research and Travel'* service package with maps, manual of German handwriting etc. You will receive a reprint of a 19th century passport to make you a "legal traveler" during the next days. We then go on a guided walking tour of the old town ending at the river Weser just where the barges and flatboats left for Bremerhaven. Welcome dinner.

Hotel: 2 nights in Bremen

### **Day 2 Tue. May 04 Sightseeing in Oldenburg, Open Air Farm Museum at Cloppenburg**

Drive to Oldenburg and enjoy sightseeing and free time in this charming town. Continue to the Open Air Farm Museum at Cloppenburg. Your lunch break will be a traditional farmers stew which you cook around an open fire place in an original farm house from the 1820ties. As we cook and eat we will enjoy a likewise pleasant and interesting conversation about life in the Old Days. Free time to walk the village and then back to Bremen for a free evening.

### **Day 3 Wed. May 05 Emigration Fever and the Linnenschmidt Inn**

Drive to Osnabrück. Villages and farmhouses along the way are still telling you how "emigration-fever" grew in this area around 1830. During a refreshment in the beer-garden of the "Linnenschmidt Inn", a former emigrant agency, you can study the old schedules of the transatlantic passage. Original documents from the holdings of this mid 19th century agency will inform you about travel patterns, emigration policy and how the journey was organized. A visit to an old grain mill completes your program before the tour continues to your hotel in Osnabrücks historic town center. Dinner at your hotel.

Hotel: 2 nights in Osnabrück

### **Day 4 Thu. May 06 Meet the People at their Farm / Osnabrück**

Full day excursion in the surroundings of Osnabrück to farms, churches, churchyards and other sites of the emigration history of that area. Included is a visit to an old spinning factory. Included is also a visit of an emigrant farm to meet with locals from that area. A German Brotzeit along with a cold beer or a coffee/tea with homemade cake is included in your program. The evening is free to explore historic Osnabrück.

### **Day 5 Fri. May 07 The Peasant and the Landlord**

This morning we continue the tour to the North-Sea coastline in East Frisia. On your way you will learn about the turbulent history the rural districts have experienced. In Clemenswerth you get an impression of splendid lifestyle but also of feudal structures of dependence while you visit the Osnabrück prince bishop's baroque hunting seat. The route continues through the picturesque landscape of Frisia. Windmills and canals lead us to the Moor-Museum near Aurich. Seeing the poor cottages will remind you of the pioneers early sod-houses in the Midwest. This visit will give you an idea on how your forefathers coped with life when they cultivated this land 200 years ago. East Frisian specials at your Hotel.

Hotel: 2 nights near Aurich

**Day 6 Sat. May 08 East Frisia**

A full day excursion is planned to introduce you to the history and culture of the Frisians. Knowledgeable in draining land and used to tough work many of the emigrants from East Frisia became farmers in Iowa and Illinois and turned the swampy soil of the Mississippi valley into rich farmland.

We have arranged an itinerary to introduce you to the history of the Frisian "Peasants Republic" and enjoy some leisure time in East Frisia's picture perfect villages. Later you will visit a windmill and as a climax of this day hear the oldest playable organ in Europe (1534) in a small roman church in the town of Rysum.

**Day 7 Sun. May 09 Bremerhaven. The German Emigration Center**

Drive to Bremerhaven. On your way is Neustadtgödens/Varel, birthplace of Friedrich Dirks who - as Friedrich Ernst - became the father of the German emigration to Texas. During your visit you will learn that he was on the wanted list in the Dutchy of Oldenburg before he made his way to America.

Bremerhaven: the old continents most important port of embarkation and site for millions of farewells. A visit to the German Emigration Center, Europe's largest and award winning museum of it's kind is included. In the evening a dinner in the steerage of an original mid-19th-century sailing ship will complete this fascinating part of your journey. To close the day some may want to go for a night cap in the still existing "Last Bar before New York" - a picturesque harbor place.

Hotel: 1 night in Bremerhaven

**Day 8 Mon. May 10 Vintage Sailing and back to Bremen**

A boat trip on an historic sailing ship in the mouth of the river Weser passing the monument to the emigrants, Columbus Quay and the Lloyd-docks let you share the experience of saying good-bye. Because of weather conditions or boat and crew may not be available, this excursion might be replaced by a harbour cruise or arranged in alternative logistics. Back in Bremen, a visit of the splendid historic Town Hall is included (May be used for official purposes and visit be arranged accordingly at another time) To complete the cycle of emigration you will be back to meet the nearby statue of the Bremen City Musicians - well known fairy tale characters who will now gain a new meaning for you as symbol of the desire of a better life in foreign parts. A farewell dinner in Bremens Ratskeller including a taste of wine in the splendid cellar rounds up the day.

Hotel: 1 night in Bremen or Bremerhaven

**Day 9 Tue. May 11 Homeward Flights or Optional Extensions**

The tour ends after breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to Bremen airport (30 minutes) or Hamburg airport (90 minutes) for homeward flights will be on your own. Your tour director will provide every assistance that is needed. Those who depart for a homeward flight will arrive at any US destination in mid-afternoon/early evening local time.

### Costs and Arrangements ( Land Only )

<b>Price per person sharing a room:</b>	<b>Euro</b>	<b>1.480,--</b>
<b>Single supplement:</b>	<b>Euro</b>	<b>190,--</b>
<b>Extra nights in Bremen or Bremerhaven</b>	<b>Euro</b>	<b>60,-- sharing a room, per person incl breakfast and taxes</b>
<b>Tour Dates 2010:</b>	<b>May 03 – 11</b>	
<b>Tour starts:</b>	<b>May 03 at Bremen</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
<b>Tour ends:</b>	<b>May 11 at Bremen</b>	<b>after breakfast</b>

Minimum of 18 participants is required. Should we risk to cancel a tour we will send out a revised mini-group arrangement at least 2 month prior to departure or a full refund of any deposits paid. Detailed information and a consumer protection plan is available along with reservation/confirmations.

**Should we miss the minimum of participants we offer minivan arrangements with driver-guide and a slightly modified program for the same price.**

**This tour is available all year round as driver-guided tour for a minimum of 6 persons.**

#### **Included (land only):**

- 8 nights in first class tourist hotels (three plus/four stars) with private facilities, double occupancy, full breakfast buffet each morning. City-Hotels are centrally located, attractions within short walking distance.
- Transportation in luxury air-conditioned motorcoach throughout the trip; historic sailing in the mouth of the river Weser.
- Introductory seminar on emigration and biographical research by university experts, "RESEARCH AND TRAVEL" service package (brochures, reader, maps, manual for German handwriting, reprint of historic documents).
- Full program including all admissions. Open Air Museum Cloppenburg, historic spinning factory, palace Clemenswerth, windmill Rysum, Organ demonstration Rysum, Moor Museum Aurich, German Emigration Center Bremerhaven, Town Hall and Wine Cellar Bremen
- Full time tour director / experienced bilingual university expert, local experts and English speaking step on guides for special sightseeing and programs.
- 8 full breakfast and one meal daily (3 lunches, 5 dinners incl. special farewell-dinner, 1 wine tasting)
- Baggage handling one piece per person.
- All taxes on prepaid services.

**Not included:** Airfares, transfers upon arrival and departure, beverages others than coffee, tea, juice with breakfast, possible individual cost for research, use of archives, databases etc., customary gratuities to tour directors / drivers.

**Optional Extension  
Your Personal Itinerary**

We have designed a special service for the individual traveler who wants to benefit from pre-travel research and arrangements: „**Your Personal Itinerary**“: Based on your advance information we check your request and start preliminary research about the possible origin of your family. A dossier with all relevant information and professional tourist service allows you to find your way to the places, records and people you like to see. You may want to travel on you own or decide to hire additional guiding and driving services (ca Euro 420,-- per full day incl use of vehicle; 1 – 3 participants).

**Day 10                      Visit your Forefathers Place of Origin**

After breakfast meet with your tour director for a final check and orientation of your itinerary to come. Board train or pick-up rental car and continue your trip according to our proposals. Every destination within Germany can be reached within 8 hours maximum. Overnight accommodation according to local destination.

**Day 11                      Local Heritage program**

We can prepare a local heritage program for you. Walk in your forefathers steps, see where they lived, find traces of the past in names, buildings, meet people at their farm, visit church and cemetery, enjoy local hospitality. Upon request we can pre-arrange meetings in church offices, local archives or with local experts.

**Farewell Day              Home**

Transfer according to your flight connections. Arrive at your US destination early evening local time.

**Costs for Individual Extensions:**

Costs to design your Personal Itinerary include pre-trip research on the possible place of origin of your emigrant ancestor. Based on an hourly fee of Euro 38,-- costs are usually between Euro 200 - 300. You can also set a limit or agree on a step-by-step progressional plan. Please note that extensive genealogical research can be extremely time consuming and is not included in this service but can be carried out according to individual agreements.

Costs for transportation, accommodation and possible guiding services will be additional and based on final arrangements.