

Research and Travel

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The Palatine Emigrant

Heritage, History, Culture, Landscape, People

Frankfurt, Heidelberg, the Palatinate, Rhine-Valley, Cologne, Osnabrück, Bremen, Bremerhaven

9 Days field trip to discover the Rhineland - Palatinate in Germany

September 20th – 28th 2010



It was from the Palatinate that early emigration from Germany to America started. Mennonites or Hugenots in search of religious freedom in the very beginning, Franz Daniel Pastorius and the Krefeld emigrants on the Concord, the founding of the very first German settlement Germantown in Pennsylvania in 1683, Palatine colonists in the War of Independence, hopeless man, women and families struggling for a better life abroad, the „Forty-Eighters“ of the German Revolution in 1848 and whoever started a new life in foreign parts - they all were part of the Emigrant Experience. And through the centuries they made the Palatinate a neighbor to America. Not only this. After World War II the Palatinate became home of the largest American communities outside the United States. We have designed a unique program to discover 300 years of a shared history.

„RESEARCH AND TRAVEL“ co-operates with the Institute for Palatine History and Folklife in Kaiserslautern. An introductory seminar and guiding services by multilingual university experts together with access to research facilities, a service package and a variety of local programs including a visit to the German Emigration Center at Bremerhaven will make this entertaining and instructive trip a lifetime experience.



Itinerary

Day 0 Transatlantic Flight from USA to Germany or individual travel to Frankfurt

Depart via any gateway city and arrive Germany at Frankfurt airport the next day.

Day 1 Mon. Sept 20 Frankfurt, Welcome to Germany

Incoming flights from the US arrive at Frankfurt airport. Transfer to your hotel is on your own. Detailed information on hotel and transfer will be provided with booking/confirmations. Travellers arriving by train: Intercity Express Trains from all major German cities arrive at Frankfurt Central Station every hour.

Your tour "The Palatine Emigrant" starts at 3 pm at your Frankfurt hotel. You will be met by your tour director with a welcome reception and an orientation on the days to come. A welcome dinner in the hotel's restaurant rounds up the day.

Hotel: 1 night Frankfurt.

Day 2 Tue. Sept 21 Heidelberg, Speyer and the Palatinate

After breakfast we leave Frankfurt. On route you will have a first glimpse on houses, towns and landscape of the beautiful Rhine valley and the Palatinate when we head south towards Heidelberg. Free time to explore this romantic city and then on to Speyer whose cathedral is listed as UNESCO world heritage. A smooth afternoon ride brings us to the town of Kusel where we check in at your charming hotel. A dinner with special Palatine dishes is waiting for you.

Hotel: 4 nights in Kusel.

Day 3 Wed. Sept 22 Introductory Seminar: Emigration Fever in the Palatinate

Motorcoach to Kaiserslautern. An introductory seminar will be held at the Institute for Palatine History and Folklife Studies. This outstanding institution is widely known to many Americans who trace their Palatine heritage. Dr. Roland Paul and his colleagues will be our hosts and will explain strategies in historical biographical and genealogical research. A RESEARCH AND TRAVEL service package and individual research opportunities with the institute's holdings will be provided. Possible findings can be mailed to you later. Additional costs may apply. In the afternoon free time in Kaiserslautern for leisure or shopping. The return trip to your hotel allows detours off the main roads to experience the charm of this beautiful spot of Germany. Dinner at your hotel.

Day 4 Thu. Sept 23 Full day excursion: Hambach and the "Forty-Eighters"

We present a full day excursion by motorcoach. You will encounter landscapes and landmarks where echoes of the past recall the spread of emigration fever in the Palatinate. En route visit to Landau, Neustadt, Lambrecht and other places of origin of famous Palatine emigrants. Included in the program is a visit to the castle of Hambach. It was from these walls that the revolutionaries from the Palatinate and the neighboring Baden demanded democracy and national unification. Later the „Hambach-People“ as many others in the course of the German Revolution so called „Forty-Eighters“ found shelter as emigrants to the USA. Many of them gained reputation in politics and public life like Carl Schurz one of their most prominent companions.

Be careful when we visit an old distillery for the evening to offer you a taste of traditional Schnapps along with dinner. Be it here on this occasion or with farmers, musicians or others - with vivid recollections of the past all will share with you their memories and make this day both instructive and entertaining

Day 5 Fri. Sept 24 Excursion: Heritage, Folklife, Farms and Travelling Musicians

Today's program is dedicated to enjoy local hospitality and encounter a wealth of stories and places. Meet the people at their farm and learn about the tradition of the traveling musicians in this area during your visit to the unique museum at the castle of Lichtenberg. Finally the town of Oberalben not only depicts the history of the Palatine Emigrant in it's museum but is also hosts a reception for us. Dinner at your hotel

Day 6 Sat. Sept 25 The Historic Route: Rhine Valley to Cologne and Osnabrück

As in the 19th century your farewell follows the next morning. You will travel the historic route which starts with a relaxing romantic Rhine river cruise passing the most scenic strip with the many castles from Bingen to the famous Lorely. Continuation of tour by motorcoach via Koblenz to Cologne. It was in Cologne where the Palatine emigrants had to decide which way to go: either on the river to Antwerp or Rotterdam or to Bremen. Before we continue the tour you visit Cologne's world famous breathtaking cathedral right in the heart of the city. Continue to Osnabrück. Dinner.

Hotel: 1 night in Osnabrück.

Day 7 Sun. Sept 26 Osnabrück and Bremen

We have a later start today. After breakfast we visit the historic market place and town hall in Osnabrück where the European 30-Years War was brought to an end. Arrival in Bremen will be during the afternoon. There are many historical landmarks and monuments which bear witness to Bremens great past as a Hanseatic city. And there are sites where emigrants stayed while waiting for an overseas passage. Millions of emigrants from Germany and Eastern Europe traveled through Bremen on their way to Bremerhaven. In this respect the monument of the Bremen City Musicians, well known fairy tale characters, will gain a new meaning for you as symbol of the desire of a better life in foreign parts. And memories of the Palatine travelling musicians are sure to come up. Dinner at Bremens Ratskeller. Evening free to browse through the many cafes and restaurants in the historic Schnoor neighborhood.

Hotel: 2 nights in Bremen.

Day 8 Mon. Sept 27 Emigration through the port of Bremerhaven, Vintage Sailing

The next morning we follow the river Weser towards Bremerhaven, the old continents most important port of embarkation. Based upon tidal waters we have arranged sailing on an historic boat either on the river to Bremerhaven or during our afternoon program. Weather conditions or availability of crew may cause us to use a different ship. Passing the monument to the emigrants, Columbus Quay and the Lloyd docks you can share the experience of saying good-bye. You pass the sites that also many Americans saw first when they arrived in Germany by ship. In the post-war period Elvis Presley went ashore in Bremerhaven as did many others.

We have scheduled a visit to the German Emigration Center, Europes largest and award winning museum on emigration which also provides research opportunities in its Forum Migration. A farewell-dinner either in the steerage section of a mid-19th-century sailing ship or in the "Last Bar before New York" will complete this fascinating part of your journey before we drive back to Bremen.

Day 9 Tue. Sept 28 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. Others may continue on a customized research trip in Germany.

Costs and Arrangements (Land Only)

Price per person sharing a room:	Euro	1.480,--
Single supplement:	Euro	190,--
Extra nights in Frankfurt or Bremen	Euro	60,-- sharing a room, per person incl breakfast and taxes
Tour Dates 2010:	Sept 20 – 28	
Tour starts:	Sept 20 at Frankfurt	3 p.m.
Tour ends:	Sept 28 at Bremen	after breakfast

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.

Tour includes (land only):

- 8 nights in first class tourist hotels, private facilities, double occupancy, full breakfast buffet, City-Hotels are centrally located, all major attractions are within short walking distance.
- Transportation in luxury air-conditioned motorcoach throughout the trip
- Cruise on the river Rhine
- Sailing on historic vessel in Bremerhaven.
- All admissions and entrance fees as per itinerary: Heidelberg Palace Courtyard, Cathedral Speyer, Museum and Castle Lichtenberg, Emigration Museum Oberalben, Fortress Hambach, Town Hall Osnabrück, German Emigration Center Bremerhaven.
- Introductory seminar on emigration and historical biographical research by university experts at the Kaiserslautern Institute for Palatine Folklife and History, "RESEARCH AND TRAVEL" service package (including brochures, reader, maps, manual for old German handwriting, reprint of historic documents), access to research facilities.
- Guiding services/full time trip director by bilingual university expert, local experts and English speaking step on guides for special sightseeing and programs.
- Breakfast and one meal daily: 8 dinners including a special farewell-dinner and a Schnapps tasting
- Baggage handling one piece per person.
- All taxes on prepaid services.

Not included: Airfares, airport transfers, beverages with meals others than coffee, juice etc. with breakfast, customary gratuities to tour directors, coach 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.