

Research and Travel

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German American Plattdütsch Conference Tour 2012

4. – 16. September 2012

Meet the People, Enjoy Hospitality, Explore Germany



Frankfurt, Rhine Valley and Cologne, Aurich and East Frisia, Bremen and Bremerhaven, Berlin and Potsdam, Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Dresden, Munich and Bavaria

Itinerary (as per 04 December)

0 Mon Sept 03

Departure from the US: Flights from the US arrive at Germany the next morning

1 Tue Sept 04

Arrive Frankfurt

For group arrivals we will arrange a hotel transfer (price not included). Guests with individual flights (or trains) use taxi cab (approx. Euro 30,-- from airport, approx Euro 15 from Central station, seats 3 – 4 persons). Directions to your hotel will be provided with confirmation of tour.

Guests with prior arrival have an extra night at the group's hotel (approx Euro 60,-- per persincl. breakfast).

Your tour starts at 3 pm at your Frankfurt downtown hotel. Meet your tour director for a welcome and tour-orientation, followed by sightseeing (Taxi and short walking) incl. the historic marketplace and townhall "Römer", the Paulskirche, site of Germany's first National Assembly in 1848. Light dinner and relax.

Hotel: 1 night Frankfurt downtown



2 Wed Sept 05

Rhine River Valley

Drive to St. Johannisberg for a visit of the world's oldest Riesling vineyard. Continue to Rudesheim and board Rhine river cruise ship for 3 hours cruise to Boppard – numerous castles and the famous Loreley en route. Continue to Neuwied/Koblenz. Your hotel is the Baroque palace of Engers, the former summer resort of the Prince Bishop of Trier, located directly at the banks of the Rhine river. Welcome dinner at the Palaces restaurant.

Hotel: 1 night at Palace of Engers at Neuwied



3 Thu Sept 06

Cologne Cathedral. Then to Aurich East Frisia

Visit the breathtaking cathedral at Cologne and a multimedia slide show. Then continue your tour to Aurich, site of the 17th. German American Plattdütsch conference.

Informal evening reception at Aurich: President Helmut Collmann welcomes everybody at the Grand Lobby of the East Frisian Heritage Society.

Hotel: 4 nights Hotel Aurich (walking distance to conference sites and pedestrian zone)

4 Fri Sept 07:**Explore East Frisia and Conference Opening Ceremony**

After breakfast we go on an orientation tour together with German participants of the conference: **"Explore East Frisia"**: the Northsea coast, locks and dyckes, historic organs, traditional home and mansions, moorlands and canals. Back to Aurich.

Official opening of 17. Düütsch-Amerikaansche Conference incl of welcome dinner.

Hotel: Aurich

5 Sat Sept 08 :**Conference Program and Local Excursions**

Lectures, presentations, workshops. Three alternative excursions in the afternoon:

"When the Wind Blows": The Emminga-Story and the history of the sister windmills at Felde and Golden Illinois.

"Ships, Logs and Dyckes": From traditional ship building to maritime technologies

"Traditions of Liberty": East Frisian history and heritage

Festive dinner and entertainment at conference.

Hotel: Aurich

**6 Sun Sept 09****Conference Program and Local Excursion**

Excursion. **"An East Frisian Sunday"** includes English / Low German church service by pastor Hoogestraat at Victorbur and local heritage museums. Lunch. Evening. Entertainment and theater. Dinner.

Hotel: Aurich

7 Mon Sept 10**The Migration Experience in Bremerhaven and Bremen**

On to Bremerhaven to explore the migration experience. Lunch at the "Last Bar before New York" (not included). See famous Columbus Pier where Elvis Presley arrived and where Marlene Dietrich left, visit the German Emigration. Then to Bremen. Sightseeing in the Old Town, and the Böttcherstraße. Finally we hear and learn about the story of famous Town Musicians of Bremen and explore Bremens important role in early travel patterns to America. Evening: Dinner at Bremens townhall restaurant: the Ratskeller

Hotel: 1 night at Bremen



8 Tue Sept 11**Travel to Berlin. German History East and West**

Free time at Bremen for individual sightseeing or shopping. Around noon continue to Berlin. En route we pass the former highway checkpoint at Helmstedt / Marienborn. All traffic once had to stop here. Today the site is a memorial both for the separation and unification of Germany. Sightseeing as we drive into Berlin to our hotel. Dinner at hotel.

Hotel: 2 nights Berlin

9 Wed Sept 12**Berlin, Capital Old and New**

Sightseeing tour in Berlin, Europe's today's most exciting city. Explore German American history, the history of German reunification and the old and new crossroads between the East and the West. Including Checkpoint Charlie, remains of the wall, Potsdam Square, Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag and many other attractions. Dinner at hotel.

Hotel: Berlin

**10 Thu Sept 13****Berlin, Lutherstadt Wittenberg and Dresden**

Drive to Lutherstadt Wittenberg. In Lutherstadt Wittenberg we visit the Castle Church, where Luther nailed the 95 theses to the door and where he and Phillip Melachton are buried. Also visit to Luthers original living quarters in the today's museum. Then along the Elbe river via Meissen on to Dresden where we spend the night and enjoy the beautiful historic setting on the banks of the Elbe river and the Frauenkirche. Dinner.

Hotel: Dresden

11 Fri Sept 14**Munich**

A long drive today with stopovers to be decided and new sceneries to see: Saxony, Thuringia and Franconia. Then Bavarias charming capital waits for you with warm hospitality in its many beergardens. Walk the old town, see the famous townhall with the Glockenspiel. Tour ends at the Hofbräuhaus, a "must see" for all beer lovers. Dinner..

Hotel: 2 nights Munich

12 Sat Sept 15**Munich, Time Out and Sightseeing**

The morning is free for individual activities. In the afternoon we meet to continue our sightseeing in Munich incl the Englischer Garten, Maximilianstraße, Schwabing, Hofgarten and other places. Tour ends at Augustiner beergarden for a farewell dinner.

Hotel: Munich

**13 Sun Sept 16****Farewell**

Groups will have a transfer to the airport (not included). Individual departures use Taxi cab (approx Euro 50,-- seats 3 or 4 persons). Arrival at US destination the same day. Have a safe flight.

Optional Extensions of Tour: Munich or Excursions to Linderhof Palace, Oberammergau, Neuschwanstein or the Eagles Nest at Obersalzberg.

Extra nights at Munich approx Euro 60,-- per person incl breakfast
Excursions: approx Euro 90,-- per person



Using a 40 seater coach, extra large distances between seats, restroom, coffee, cookies softdrinks in coach included:
per person in a double room (based on group of 25 participants): approx. Euro: 2.090,--
(based on group of 20 participants) approx. Euro: 2.260,--

Rate excludes air fare, rate in USD may be flexible due to currency exchange rate

Single accommodation surcharge approx Euro: 390,--

Should you decide to travel to the conference at Aurich on your own:

Tour starts on Day 03 (Sept 06), 3 pm at your Aurich hotel approx Euro 1.800,--

Single accommodation surcharge approx Euro 330,--

Deduction for participants who do not attend the conference Euro: 350,--

Tour price includes:

- Carefully designed program, itinerary and activities
- Local networking, planning of activities, receptions etc during excursions
- Full time experienced bi-lingual expert tour director and guide Torsten Iversen. Local bi-lingual step-on guides in Berlin and Munich.
- 12 nights accommodation in double room incl. breakfast every morning (4 star or 3star hotels, carefully selected). All rooms with private restrooms, bath/shower, TV, hairdryer, telephone, in some hotels minibar), accommodation for children modified as per hotels policy (usually multi bed family room or extra room next door for children to share)
- Meals: full breakfast every morning, one meal per day (usually at hotel: two or three course dinner for group.) or as per days activities
- Transportation in modern comfortable tour bus (ca 40 seats) with professional driver incl. costs for gasoline, road tolls, parking fees, drivers accommodation incl. coffee, water, cookies in bus.
- Rhine river cruise ca 3 hours
- Entrance fees and admissions: Gallery of German Emperors at Frankfurt Römer, Multimedia Presentation Cologne and Cathedral, German Emigration Center, Marienborn Border Checkpoint, Lutherstadt Wittenberg Schlosskirche and Luther Museum
- Conference package at Aurich 4 days : incl fees, meals, receptions, entertainment and extensive excursions with entrance fees, meals
- Customers protection insurance / German " Sicherungsschein" as required by German law.

Not included

- Airfares
- Drinks with dinners (coffee, juice etc. with breakfast of course included)
- It is customary to tip e.g. waiters , waitresses, taxi drivers or other personal with small amounts or round up invoices for individual expenses
- Customary tips for tour directors or/and bus drivers are at your discretion

Terms and Conditions (general terms)**Airfares, flight logistics and other personal arrangements**

Individual arrangement

Consumer protection

All deposits and payments are secured with a consumer protection certificate issued by R&T ("German Sicherungsschein") as required by German law. This certificate protects payments should a tour operator fail to provide contracted services due to bankruptcy.

Deposits

Deposit of Euro 200,- per person is due with confirmation, Euro 50,-- of which are non-refundable in any case of cancellation. Should we have to cancel a tour the complete deposit is fully refundable.

Payment

Final payment is due when invoice is sent and is expected ca. 8 weeks prior to departure.

Tour price

See above with respective number of travellers. A change in the number of participants will result in a new calculation.

Preferably payment can be wired in Euro to our account:

Name of Bank	Raiffeisenbank Oldenburg
Adress of bank:	Hauptstraße 74, D 26122 Oldenburg, Germany
Bankleitzahl (Bank Code in Germany)	280 60 228
Kontonummer (Account No)	90 322 100
SWIFT Code	GENODEF1OL2
IBAN (International Bank Account Number)	DE 7928 0602 2800 9032 2100

Currency exchange rate

The rate to match the Euro tour price is the day when a check is mailed from the US or the day a bank-transaction is performed. We will send out an invoice early and allow payment until ca 8 weeks prior to beginning of tour so you can determine the date of transaction and a hopefully favorable exchange rate.

Cancellations

We have always been generous in any case of cancellations but we reserve the right to charge fees in order to cover our expenses or fees required by airlines, bus- or cruise-companies, hotels, guides etc.

Cancellation fees (% of the tour-price) may apply for cancellations received:

From confirmation to 60 days before beginning of tour: no fees except Euro 50,-- handling fee from deposit

59 - 15. days before beginning of tour: 30 %

14 - 8 days before beginning of tour: 50 %

7 - 3 days before beginning of tour: 70 %

3 - 1 days before beginning of tour: 80 %

No show 100 %

Travel insurance

R&T carries all general liability insurance as any other Germany based tour operator. You can buy additional travel insurance (e.g. luggage) at the US.

Jurisdiction

Court of Jurisdiction is Oldenburg, Germany

Information

Please call, e-mail or fax us with any question you may have. We are looking forward to meeting you in Germany.

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