

Agricola Stichting

Helpman 36, 9989 ET Warffum (NL)

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web : www.agricolastichting.nl (vanaf 01 juli 2012)

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Memorial Luther bus tour fall of 2017 with extra attention for J.S. Bach (on day 4):

Day 1 - Our Luther tour departs on **Monday September 11, 2017** from the main railway station in Groningen at 08:15 am. We halt on the way also in Apeldoorn (main station at 10:45 am) and drive then with 2 stops (last one a guided city walk through Magdeburg: Luther went here to school in 1493-94!) on to Halle an der Saale. We're staying 3 nights in het 4-star **Hotel Alba Mercure** in Peißen (right outside the city). Night programme: dinner, short lecture & 1st part of movie about Luther in the hotel.



(City Hall, rebuilt St. John's church & Cathedral in Magdeburg.) (Photo right: Hotel in Halle-Peißen)

On **Day 2 – Tuesday September 12**, we enjoy an extensive buffet-breakfast. Bus trip to Eisleben takes an hour. We visit this morning all the sites that remind us of Martin Luther. Everything we cover is within walking distance. In sequence from the local tourist office: the completely renovated house where Luther was born; the St. Peter & Paul's church where he was baptised; the market with the famous statue; the St. Andrew's church where Luther had his last (aborted) sermon on Februari 15, 1546 and the house where he died. There is ample opportunity to browse through (book)shops, while the rest of us drink coffee & cakes = '*Kaffee & Kuchen*' on the sidewalk of the market. Programme for the afternoon: we visit '*Mansfelder Land*' where Luther grew up and went to primary school. Visit to the Luther family home and the St. George's church in Mansfeld, as well as the famous castle (the only part of Mansfeld not conquered in the 30-year war). Then we drink high tea in the nearby historic city of Hettstedt. And around 5 p.m. we visit the truly unique de St. Anne's church. Most church-goers at the end of the 16th century were still illiterate; in this church you will find the most important stories from the Bible carved in stone & wood. After the guided church tour, we'll sing several Luther songs. The organists amongst us will have the opportunity to play on the organ. At night after dinner in the hotel, the rest of the Luther movie and a short Power Point Presentation about tomorrow. (Below you will find the most important sites in Eisleben in a row: Luther statue, house of birth and death, the St. Andrew's church with the pulpit where Luther preached regularly – incl. his final sermon.)



Day 3 - Wednesday September 13. We depart - after the extended buffet-breakfast - early at **08:45** am to Lutherstadt Wittenberg where we'll stay all day. We visit the *Stadtkirche* (= city church) first of all, i.e. the *Mutterkirche der Reformation* (mother church of the reformation). Luther preached here weekly. Your tour-conductor will lead the way, and after the guided tour, we'll have an organ concerto by the cantor-organist. We'll drink coffee next to the kerk on market square. Then a visit to: the former Augustine monastery - now Luther-hall and home (where the reformer, his wife Catharina von Bora and children lived). You'll have lunch on your own (plenty of suggestions available). All the afternoon activities optional: We offer you a short service with a capella song in a small, historic chapel adjacent to the city church. And a visit to (among others) the home of Melanchton or of Lucas Cranach the Elder – all of this with your tour-conductor as your guide. Or wander around Wittenberg on your own. We'll meet end of the afternoon (16:30 uur) in front of the gates of the famous Castle church, where Fredric the Wise, his 2 brothers, Luther and Melanchton are buried. A short guided tour by a historian who will tell us the stirring history of the past 500 years in Wittenberg, incl. the 1547 occupation by emperor Charles V and his general, the (in the Netherlands) infamous duke of Alfa. We are expected back in our hotel for buffet-dinner at 20:30, followed by a cosy meeting with details about tomorrow, including how we move to the 4-star Country Park-Hotel in Brehna. **(continued on page 2)**

www.lutherbach.nl

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[Wittenberg](#): Townhall, market and city church. Castle church with tower. [Halle](#): Handelhaus/ Museum

Day 4 - On Thursday September 14, we'll slow down a bit. After packing and breakfast, we visit at 9 am first the St. Mary's church. George Frederic Handel was its organist as a teenager. Martin Luther briefly lied in state here after his demise in Eisleben (1546). The original death mask is still on display. We then visit the truly, splendid former Handel home, now museum. Our participating organists have the opportunity to play on the 1770 Johann-Gottlieb-Mauer-Orgel. We drink coffee on the main square of Halle in front of the *Rote Turm* (red tower) and depart for Köthen. The bus journey takes about an hour. On March 21, it was 332 jaar ago that J.S. Bach was born in Eisenach (Thuringia). After his departure from Weimar, Bach worked 6 years in Köthen en composed here mainly a lot of secular music. We have sufficient time for an early lunch, then visit the Lutheran St. Agnus' church (Bach's family church), and the restored castle of Bach's friend and patron Prince Leopold. After a brief city walk, we are treated to an organ concerto by Frau Martina Apitz, cantor in the St. James' church, a distant successor to J.S. Bach. His 1st wife died here; he also met his 2nd wife here with whom he had a lot more children. Around 6 pm, we drive on to our new hotel in Brehna for our buffet- diner.



(Handel's house organ) (Mirror hall in Köthen castle with 'Mr Bach') (Our hotel in Brehna)

Day 5 – On Friday september 15. (after buffet-breakfast) we depart to the enchanting city of Torgau – the 'political centre' of the Reformation. In no other German city today will you notice – as they say – more visibly foot-marks of the Reformation. History stares us here in the face with more than 500 late gothic and renaissance buildings. In 1530, reformers Martin Luther, Philip Melancton, Justus Jonas en Johannes Bugenhagen wrote here the so-called '*Torgauer Artikel*', which later formed the basis for the Confession of Augsburg. The electors (Fredric the Wise and his brothers) stayed here also on a regular basis. Katharina von Bora (Luther's spouse) became widow in 1546, and fled because of the plague in late summer of 1552 to Torgau, where she died just before Christmas. She is interred in the city church. We spend here all day, and are back at night at 7 pm for our buffet-dinner.

Day 6 - On Saturday September 16, breakfast is available as of 6:30 am. Our journey back home starts at **8:00** am sharp. With just one stop - likely a cultural destination like Münster – with its rich history of e.g. the radical-reformed anabaptist in 1534-35. And let's not forget the Peace of Münster in 1648, which is the official year of birth of the Netherlands State and simultaneously the end of the 80-year war between Spain and the Netherlands. From there we drive straight to Apeldoorn. We expect to be back there at around 4 pm, and not later than 6 pm and the main station of Groningen. **(Conclusion on page 3)**

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What does it cost? 5 nights - 6 days – including bus tour, hotel and breakfast, nearly all excursions inclusive the rest per capita apportioned. **Until August 01 (extended early bird discount):** Couples and people who share a double room **p.p. Euro 580**. Single room **p.p. Euro 730**. **If you prefer to stay 3-in-1 room – ask us for a quote. As of August 01**, there will be surcharge of **Euro 30** p.p. After **August 15**: respectively. **Euro 640** en **Euro 760**. We are almost certain this tour will take place. We calculated that we need a minimum of **25 passengers** to break even. Kindly note that this is another of our bus tours **without profit motive (see below)**. Maximum number of participants (not including chauffeur and tour-conductors): **39**

Mvg,

Kaarlo Schepel - Agricola Stichting- Luther-Bach-Reizen -

KvK (Chamber of Commerce) registration (Groningen) n°. 50856979 – see below for more information. **Address:** Helpman 36, 9989ET Warffum (NL) tel. **31-(0)595-422.738 Mobiel **31-(0)6-1203.5677 Fax 084-835.3750 (voice-mail) 0595-426.065 web: www.lutherbach.nl



(Schloß Hartenfels in Torgau. Architectuur volgens Luther mooier dan Salomo's Tempel!)

Please note/ N.B. 1: All proceeds (profit) of this tour will go to the newly reconstructed, historic Arp Schnitger organ in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Groningen (the Netherlands). All details on the relevant website: <http://www.schnitgerorgel2017.nl/>

N.B. 2: Do you have trouble on the day of departure to be on time, i.e. to board the bus in Groningen? We shall gladly arrange a B&B (ca. €30-40 p.p.) within walking distance from the main railway station in Apeldoorn. Or do you need to park your car in Apeldoorn? We can arrange this for you at cost price.

N.B. 3: We also are able to offer you **full-board** (i.e. dinner on basis of buffet, but not including lunch) for an approximately extra €17 p.p. per day. Our experience is that most people consider a sandwich with (butter) milk more than sufficient. Reason is that we daily start on an extended buffet-breakfast. But just to make sure no one goes hungry or thirsty, we bring along some extra food and drink on the bus on several days (day 1 & 6) – also in order to save time.

N.B. 4: For concerts and other cost incurred (admission to museums/ churches) a small separate budget is prepared. Experience teaches us that this comes to about **€60-70 p.p.** (if you participate in all of it). You will get all details when we confirm to you that the entire above program will take place (after August 15).

N.B. 5: Want to join us in Germany? Ask us for a separate (slightly discounted) quote.

Final remarks: The Agricola Stichting is registered with the (KvK) Chamber of Commerce (Groningen) under n°.50856979. The Luther-Bach reizen (tours) were registered in the past (2013 and before) through a different corporate body. Travel insurance? Ask us..

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