

Exploring the Heritage of the Reformation: In the Footsteps of Martin Luther

Martin Luther, the great 16th century Christian reformer, was born in Eisleben in 1483. He pursued university studies in Erfurt and entered the Augustinian order in 1505. After ordination, he began teaching in Wittenberg before he was sent to Rome on business for the Augustinians. Upon his return, he challenged both the moral corruption of Rome and a number of church practices which he argued ran counter to the spirit of Jesus's teachings. This unleashed events that would lead to a break with the Roman Catholic Church and the establishment of Lutheran or Evangelical churches. Travel to places where important change occurred is a powerful way to inspire change and transformation in participants. On-site visits make the lives of visionary men and women more tangible and help participants gain an appreciation for how that vision continues to be relevant today. Participants return home with a new excitement about sharing this heritage with their local congregations and/or educational institutions.

Program Objectives

Experience the life and times of Martin Luther

Gain an appreciation for the context of Martin Luther's thought and struggles by visiting medieval German towns and universities. What was life like for the ordinary German in the 16th century? How did Luther's life mirror that of his times? What were the common views of religion, salvation, indulgences, and other practices that Luther considered? Trace Luther's life and milestones by visiting important places in his life and work.

Move the spirit and nurture faith in historical venues

Create memorable moments of prayer and worship in historical venues where Luther and other reformation leaders worshiped, preached and taught. Uncover the spirit of evangelical reform in places that are deeply moving and inspiring.

Trace the impact of the Reformation in modern life

Luther's reformation impacted religious art, architecture, music, and educational and civic institutions. Travel to places that have been shaped and formed by this heritage. Meet with local congregations and organizations to learn about continued efforts to live the spirit of the reformation in both church and society.

The way we travel the world is always changing but the reasons remain constant – to become citizens of the world, *leading and inspiring respectful and compassionate ways of life*. People who travel the globe begin a lifelong journey of worldly citizenship to gain valuable insight about themselves and the world around them through the discovery and exploration of cultures outside their own.

Suggested venues

Germany

Important venues include Wittenberg (Schlosskirche, Lutherhalle, Reformation Museum and Melanchthon house), Leipzig (Thomas Kirche), Eisleben (sites associated with Luther's birth and death, Peter and Paul Church, and St. Andrews), Erfurt (Augustinian monastery and Luther exhibit), Eisenach (Wartburg Castle, Lutherhaus, Bachhaus), and Augsburg. Additional time can be included for cultural and historical visits to Berlin and Munich.

Switzerland and Czech Republic

Extensions can be created to Reformation sites in Switzerland or others in the Czech Republic. Learn about other reformers – such as Knox, Zwingli, and Hus.

Ecumenical venues

Ecumenical groups (Roman Catholic – Lutheran) may travel to Rome to visit sites and consider practices associated with Rome during the 16th century and to visit some of the best preserved early Christian sites in the world.

Illume works with group leaders to create customized and unique programs with activities, visits and resources that support your vision and objectives. Call us to begin planning a program tailored to your constituency.