

## **EUROPEAN ANABAPTIST TOUR**

### **OCTOBER 17 - 29, 2025**

#### **Included in price:**

- 11 nights lodging in Youth Hostels (or equal) and hotels. Lodging in Youth Hostels (4-person rooms) and hotels (4-person rooms if available. Small up charge for double rooms)
  - All dinners (including free water)
  - All breakfasts
  - 3 lunches
  - Transportation (50-seated coach)
  - Entrance to all museums, sites and excursions mentioned in the itinerary.
  - Amsterdam Canal boat tour; Aalsmeer flower auction; Corrie ten Boom museum; Anne Frank House; Zaanse Schans; Pingjum Mennonite Church; Witmarsum Reformed Church; Asperen Reformed Church; Boppard Rhine cruise; Weierhof Mennonite Archives; Natzwill-er-Struthof Concentration Camp; Hinterhütten Täuferversteck; Lauterbrunnen cable car and train ride up to Schilhorn mountain; Sumiswald Hans Haslibacherhof, Neuschwanstein Castle.
  - Guided Mennonite-Anabaptist walking tours in Amsterdam, Münster, Bern, and Zurich
  - Use of headsets and microphone during the tour.
  - English speaking guiding service during the tour.
  - All taxes/ gratuities/ tips
- Airfare  
Ground transportation from SMBI

#### **Not included in price:**

- Additional lunches.
- Drinks with included dinners (but free tap water is provided as much as possible).
- Any additional fees or optional activities.
- Insurance (travel and medical)

**Cost of tour** - Approx. \$5300 usd per person (approximately)



## Itinerary SMBI tour October 17 – 29, 2025

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Lodging</b>
0	Friday Oct 17	Departure North America	
1	Saturday Oct 18	Morning - Arrive at Schiphol Airport, The Netherlands Corrie ten boom museum (2 shifts, max 15 people per shift) in Haarlem	Youth Hostel
2	Sunday Oct 19	Mennonite Singel church service and included lunch; Amsterdam Anne Frank house Anabaptist walking tour Amsterdam city center and canal boat tour	Youth Hostel
3	Monday Oct 20	Zaanse Schans Village Included lunch in Pingjum Friesland – Pingjum and Witmarsum- Menno Simons	Youth Hostel
4	Tuesday Oct 21	Flower auction Aalsmeer. Asperen - Dirk Willems Story Included Packed lunch from Youth hostel Transfer to Germany Münster Anabaptist city walk	Near Cologne
5	Wed Oct 22	Cologne Cathedral and free time city center Boppard Rhine Boat tour	Youth Hostel
6	Thursday Oct 23	Weierhof Mennonite Archives and village Concentration camp Natzwiller-Struthof	Mont Sainte Odile
7	Friday Oct 24	Riquewihr medieval village (France) Included Rösti lunch Emmentaler Schaukaserei Affoltern Bern Anabaptist city walk Free time at Ludernalp	Ludernalp
8	Saturday Oct 25	Swiss Orgeli music store and cowbell shop in Wasen Visit of Hans Haslibacherhof, Sumiswald church and Trachselwald castle Individual lunch at Kambly Cookies Hinterhutten Tauferverstek Regula Fankhauser. Langnau Mennonite church and cemetery	Ludernalp + Swiss folklore concert

9	Sunday Oct 26	Day in the Alps. Transfer to Lauterbrunnen Gondola lift to Grütschalp + train to Murren then walk through Murren to gondola lift Gondola lift up to Schilthorn Mountain. Schilthorn free time, including time for individual lunch in revolving restaurant Gondola lift and return to Stechelberg. Paragliding option from Murren to Stechelberg Sfr 190 (15-20 minutes) <a href="https://airtime-paragliding.com/">https://airtime-paragliding.com/</a> Short City center walk including Kapellbrücke and dinner in restaurant Luzern city center	Youth hostel Luzern
10	Monday Oct 27	Zürich Anabaptist walk; individual lunch and free time Bäretswil church (toilet stop) Hike to the Täuferhöhle Anabaptist cave	Near Neuschwanstein
11	Tuesday Oct 28	Morning: Hike to Schleithem Anabaptist marker stone Schleithem Museum Afternoon: Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany	Near Munich
12	Wed Oct 29	Fly home from Munich airport. End of tour	

# EUROPEAN ANABAPTIST ITINERARY

## SMBI

OCTOBER 17 - OCTOBER 29, 2025

### Day 1 - Oct 17

Board your flight this evening, flying on to Amsterdam in the Netherlands arriving Saturday morning. You will enjoy dinner, sleep and breakfast en-route.

### Day 2 - Oct 18

Arrive at Schiphol Airport, The Netherlands. After meeting our local, English speaking guide, we will proceed to the city of Haarlam. After lunch (on your own) we will be visiting the Corrie Ten Boom House/Museum and "The Hiding Place". Stoop inside the original hiding place where Corrie's family hid Jews during WW2. The history of the Ten Boom family testifies of their love for and commitment to the Jewish people. The museum wants to be an 'open home', as a living memorial to this family who lived as Christians through their obedience to God and experienced His grace every day during some very difficult times.

### Day 3 - Oct 19

Today, after breakfast, we will enjoy a worship service at the Singel Mennonite Church Doopsgezinde Kerk (Singelkerk), This church is considered a hidden church as it is not recognizable as a church from the street view.

Lunch provided after the morning worship service.

In the afternoon we will tour the Anne Frank House. Anne Frank (Born in 1929 in Germany - died in a concentration camp in 1945), was a Jewish girl whose diary of her family's two years in hiding during the German occupation of the Netherlands became a classic of war literature. Anne wrote faithfully in her diary, recounting day-to-day life in hiding, from ordinary annoyances to the fear of capture. She discussed typical adolescent issues as well as her hopes for the future, which included becoming a journalist or a writer. Anne's last diary entry was written on August 1, 1944. Three days later the annex was discovered by the Gestapo, which was acting on a tip from Dutch informers. We'll enjoy a walking tour of the city with some Anabaptist history. Then take a relaxing tour of the city of Amsterdam by cruising on a canal boat, giving a very different perspective!

### Day 4 - Oct 20

After a good night of sleep, and breakfast, we will step back in time and visit Zaanse Schans, a residential area where the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries are brought to life. Stroll past the bakery Museum, or take a look at the warehouse where clogs are made. Don't miss the cheese factory, pewter foundry and wooden houses. However, what stands out the most is the beautiful, and historic windmills. In the afternoon, we will head north to Friesland, across the dyke holding back the Sea, on our way to Pingjum and Witmarsum, Menno Simons, 1496-1561, was born in Witmarsum. His first parish as a Catholic priest was in Pingjum.

#### Day 5 - Oct 21

Depart for an early morning trip to Aalsmeer Flower Auction, the largest in the world. 17 million flowers and 2 million plants are auctioned daily, supplied by 7000 growers in the Netherlands and other countries. Each day an average of 50,000 transactions are concluded with exporters and wholesalers who export the flowers and plants worldwide. Next is the village of Asperen, and will hear about the Dirk Willems Story. Dirk was a local Dutch Anabaptist martyr most famous for escaping from prison but then turning back to rescue his pursuer, who had fallen through thin ice while chasing Willems, only to be recaptured, tortured and killed for his beliefs. In the afternoon we will make our way to Germany. We will do a city walk Munster and hear about the Munster Rebellion. In 1534, shortly after the onset of the Protestant Reformation, a radical sect from this new movement, the Anabaptists, seized the city of Munster in Germany and governed it for sixteen months as a millenarian cult in a manner so alarming it managed to bring together Catholic and Lutheran forces to put it down.

#### Day 6 - Oct 22

This morning we will visit the amazing Cologne Cathedral. This giant Gothic cathedral, which until its completion in 1880 had been under construction for over 500 years. It is perhaps Germany's most famous religious structure and includes two huge towers that serve as the defining symbol of Cologne's skyline. It houses the largest swinging church bell in the world. History has it that the remains of the Three Wise Men are in the cathedral in a gold sarcophagus, still on display today.

This afternoon we will enjoy a beautiful afternoon together on a cruise on the Rhine River. Splendid scenery, picturesque castles and luscious vineyard make up the perfect relaxing afternoon.

#### Day 7 - Oct 23

Weierhof is a small Mennonite village. It is also the home of the German Mennonite Archives, which were started after WWII when the Danzig area Mennonite congregations disappeared and they needed to find a place to keep all their records.

In 1682 the Mennonite congregation at the Weierhof (nowadays Bolanden) was officially founded.

However, the history of this place is much, much older. Today the Weierhof Mennonite Congregation draws on its tradition and at the same time strives to be a modern church community with many, many activities within the congregation and reaching outside to the community.

In the afternoon, visit Natziller-Struthof Concentration Camp, one of the Nazi's notorious concentration camps and a grim reminder of the effort to exterminate all "undesirables". In the afternoon, we'll go to France and visit the quaint village of Obernai, (Alsace) a walled village with a very scenic town centre.

There will be free time to explore the village and do some shopping! Here in the Alsace Lorraine area of France, the Swiss Anabaptist refugees fleeing persecution found a safe resting place. They were welcomed here because of their agricultural, husbandry and craftsmen skills. Here the Amish movement grew and flourished before immigration to the USA began in the 1700 and 1800's.

Tonight we will spend at Mont Sainte Odile - a former monastery, high in the mountains overlooking Alsace France. The views are absolutely incredible.

#### Day 8 - Oct 24

Today is another highlight - our visit to Riquewihr medieval village. It is situated between the Vosges Mountains and the Plains of Alsace. This medieval town has managed to preserve its authenticity and is rightly known as "The Gem of the Alsace Vineyards" and is a living open air museum. Half-timbered buildings, oriel windows, beautiful inner courtyards, elegant fountains and ancient wells are from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. It's a romantic and dramatic place with the vineyards on the mountain slopes seen from alleyways just creeping down to the gates of the village, views of castles on craggy summits. The layout and

structure are unchanged from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and the buildings have been well preserved.

Lunch will be included at the Emmentaler Schaukaserei

In the afternoon we will enjoy a Bern Anabaptist city walk. Anabaptists first arrived in Bern weeks after the first baptisms, sometime in early 1525. Already in 1527, the government leaders of Bern issued a mandate that all Anabaptists in their city would face death by drowning. And through the middle of the 18th century, the Bernese authorities were very diligent about getting rid of the "Anabaptist" plague. The Bernese government had a group called the Anabaptists constabulary, or the Tauferjager, whose sole job was to root out Anabaptists. They were spies. Allowed to infiltrate and do whatever was necessary to identify the Anabaptists among them. And yet Anabaptists refused to flee Bern and find homes elsewhere. This meant that they had to be flexible and learn to exercise extreme caution to survive. Late afternoon we will arrive at our hotel high in the mountains. Lüderenalp is one of the most beautiful destinations in the Emmental. The vantage point affords exceptional panoramic views to the Bernese Alps and Jura. Enjoy free time, hiking, relaxing and enjoying awesome views.

#### Day 9 - Oct 25

This morning we will experience more of the Swiss culture by visiting a Swiss Orgeli music store and cowbell shop in Wasen. The sound of cowbells around the necks of cows is a very common, and beautiful sound on the Swiss hills.

Next a visit to the Hans Haslibacherhof. Gertrud and Hans Haslebacher are the 15th generation to run the historic Haslenbach farm. Her ancestor was the Baptist Hans Haslebacher. He was executed in 1571 because of his faith. Hans Haslebacher was a farmer and influential Anabaptist teacher. He was the last baptismal person to be executed in the canton of Bern because of his faith. On October 20, 1571, the farmer was beheaded in Bern after he steadfastly refused to renounce Anabaptism. Gertrud and Hans Haslebacher opened a small Anabaptist museum on their farm in Sumiswald in 2007.

Every year Gertrud Haslebacher welcomes a number of visitors and tells them the story of the Anabaptists. We will also see the Sumiswald church.

Then on to Trachselwald castle, a very sobering place to visit. Trachenswald served almost entirely as an Anabaptist prison in the 16th and 17th centuries. Hundreds of Anabaptists were imprisoned here, tortured, beaten, many were even killed. A few years ago, the Mennonite church actually purchased the castle for 1 dollar.

Lunch will be enjoyed by sampling cookies at the Kambly Cookie factory - good Swiss cookies!

After lunch we go to Hinter Hutten Tauferverstek, home of Simon and Regula Fankhauser. This is a place where Anabaptists could hide when the local bailiff was pursuing them. The current family of the farm, the Fankhauser family, is descended from the builder of the barn and is currently part of the Reformed. They discovered that some of their ancestors became Anabaptist and that is why they made this hiding place. This place was unknown to the outside world until about 1979, when the owner made public what had been passed on to his family for generations. The current family has done a fantastic job of creating historical displays in German, French, and English on Anabaptist history.

The last stop of the day is to the Langnau Mennonite Church and Cemetery. Langnau has a history of Anabaptism going all the way back to March 1525. Today, Langnau has the oldest Mennonite church in the world, dating to 1530.

Dinner will be served at an original Swiss Folklore, where local food, and music will be enjoyed.

#### Day 10 - Oct 26

Today we will find so many opportunities to see the majesty of God - a day in the Swiss Alps! We will transfer to the beautiful village of Lauterbrunnen. Gondola lift to Grutschalp and train to Murren. Walk through the quaint little village of Murren to the gondola lift up to Schilthorn Mountain. At the top there

will be free time to enjoy the spectacular views, including time for individual lunch in the revolving restaurant (not included). Gondola lift return to Stechelberg. In the afternoon there will be time for paragliding over the mountains from Murren to Stechelberg. This is optional and the approximate cost is approximately \$200 for a 20 minute flight. Costly, but worth it!

City center walk including Kapellbrücke. The Kapellbrücke (literally, Chapel Bridge) is a covered wooden footbridge spanning the river Reuss diagonally in the city of Luzern. Named after the nearby St. Peter's Chapel, the bridge is unique in containing a number of interior paintings dating back to the 17th century, although many of them were destroyed along with a larger part of the centuries-old bridge in a 1993 fire. Subsequently restored, the Kapellbrücke is the oldest wooden covered bridge in Europe, as well as the world's oldest surviving truss bridge. Dinner in restaurant in Luzern City center.

#### Day 11 - Oct 27

The town of Zurich is where the Anabaptist movement began with the "re"-baptism of Felix Manz, Conrad Grebel, and Georg Blaurock. This is where the name "Ana" or "re"-baptist is derived. One special site of interest will be Grossmünster Kirche, where Ulrich Zwingli launched the Swiss Reformation in 1522 by breaking with the Catholic Church over Biblical application of preaching, fasting, and celibacy. We will do a city walk with explanations along the way.

2025 will mark the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Anabaptism.

Individual lunch and free time

The Tauferhole (Anabaptist Cave) close to the village of Baretswil, was the meeting place for local Anabaptists to worship undetected by the authorities hunting for them. Undocumented tradition tells us that as many as eighty persons worshipped in this cave as the waterfall overhead drowned out the singing. We will make the hike up to the cave and spend some time in reflection, and thanksgiving.

#### Day 12 - Oct 28

After breakfast, we will move on to Schleithem. Schleithem has a small city museum, and one room is dedicated to the Schleithem Confession, the confession written early in the Anabaptist movement, 1527, as a way to unite these disparate adult baptizers. The museum has one of only four copies of the original Schleithem printing. The Taufenstein, or baptist stone, is a memorial stone remembering the Anabaptists who fled Switzerland via the Taufestieg, or baptist path. In German Anabaptist/Mennonites are generally known simply as taufer, or baptist. The stone was put on this path about four years ago as an act of reconciliation from the Reformed for their ancestors persecution of ours.

In the afternoon we will enjoy a tour of Neuschwanstein castle, built by crazy King Ludwig II of Bavaria in 1868. The castle was built on top of a rock ledge in the Bavarian Alps. The castle was never finished by the king as he passed away in 1886. The views from the castle are stunning - overlooking much of Bavaria.

#### Day 13 - Oct 29

Transfer to the Munich Airport for our flight home, taking with us many special memories of our time together. "...Yea, we have a goodly heritage" Ps 16:6