

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY (Nov 2014 Up-Date)

Northview High School 2015 Europe Concert Tour

Travel Dates: June 25 to July 9, 2015

Day 1 – THU JUNE 25 – USA/EUROPE...OVERNIGHT FLIGHT ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN TO EUROPE. Departure from the United States.

Day 2 - FRI JUNE 26 – GERMANY...ARRIVAL AT DUSSELDORF AIRPORT AND TRANSFER TO RÜDESHEIM. Morning arrival at Dusseldorf Airport. After instruments and luggage are loaded, board the motor coach to transfer to your accommodations in Rudesheim (youth hostel with shared bathrooms for the students and hotel for the Adult Tour). After check-in, the rest of the day will be at leisure to acclimate, get organized, take a walk or a cable car ride for magnificent views, and catch-up on your rest.

Day 3 – SAT JUNE 27 – GERMANY...CRUISE ON THE RHINE RIVER. This morning a Rhine Steamer awaits to take you on an enchanting cruise. As you glide by, marvel at the many castle ruins, vineyards, and picturesque villages set against the hillsides. You might want to eat independent lunch on board - a moving picnic. After spotting the legendary Lorelei rock formation, disembark at the village of St. Goar. Board the motor coach and travel to Heidelberg. Take a walking tour of 'Old Town' and spend some time getting to know this university town, considered by many to embody the spirit of Germany. After your visit in Heidelberg, transfer to your hotel. The students will stay at a hotel in Gebsattel just outside Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber. (The Adult Tour will stay at a hotel in Markelsheim, about 45 minutes away).

Day 4 – SUN JUNE 28 – GERMANY...FULL DAY IN ROTHENBURG. Most of the day will be free to do as you please. The motor coach will take you into Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber, and you're sure to be delighted by this storybook village with its intact city walls, cobblestone streets, historic inns, and quaint shop fronts. You may wish to climb the 'Rathaus' Bell Tower for a birds-eye view of the city. Browse one of the unique museums, stroll through the peaceful Castle Gardens near the River Tauber, or shop the year-round Christmas shop. Perhaps one of the many tempting bakeries will whet your appetite. This afternoon, the Northview High School will perform their first concert of the tour.

Day 5 – MON JUNE 29 – GERMANY/AUSTRIA...VISIT DACHAU AND MUNICH ON THE WAY TO AUSTRIAN ALPINE VILLAGE IN SALZBURG PROVINCE. Have an early breakfast, and by way of the Autobahn, you will reach Dachau for a somber visit to the visitors center of the former concentration camp. Those who prefer can visit the Dachau Palace gardens. There will be a chance to see the Bavarian capital of Munich during a lunch stop. Shortly after departing Munich, drive into breathtaking Austria. The beauty of Austria will surround you during your two-night stay in Flachau. The students will stay at a youth hostel with shared bathrooms and the Adult Tour will stay at a hotel in another nearby mountain village.

Day 6 – TUE JUNE 30 – GERMANY/AUSTRIA... EAGLE'S NEST & SALZBURG. What a way to wake up, looking out your window to see such splendid scenery!! After breakfast, take a short morning ride to the Eagle's Nest, Adolf Hitler's hideaway during WWII. The view from the 6,000-foot-high Eagle's Nest is said to be the most outstanding in the Alps, with views into both Germany and Austria. You can also see Salzburg, your afternoon destination. Dominated by the imposing hilltop fortress and bisected by the Salzach River, this beautiful, baroque city abounds with elegant buildings, fountains, squares, and gardens. During free time here, you may enjoy strolling through Salzburg's famous shopping streets with the highly ornate, wrought iron signs on their storefronts. Plans are under-way for the Northview High School to perform an early afternoon concert in Mirabell Garden, with its beautifully manicured grounds. Scenes from *The Sound of Music* were filmed here.

Day 7 – WED JULY 01 – AUSTRIA/GERMANY/AUSTRIA... VISIT BERCHTESGADEN SALT MINES AND CONTINUE TO AXAMS, NEAR INNSBRUCK. Again today, travel through the majestic Austrian countryside, past the pretty lakes of the eastern Alps to Berchtesgaden, Germany. Another fascinating experience follows at the Berchtesgaden Salt Mines. Donned in mine workers' garb, cap and all, descend deep into the interior by way of a small train. Listen to an explanation of how the salt is taken from the mountain and thrill as you slide down the giant slides. After independent lunch, it's on to your hotel in Axams (or in Thaur for the Adult Tour), a mountain village near Innsbruck.

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Day 8 – THU JULY 02 – GERMANY/AUSTRIA...NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE AND INNSBRUCK.

Today's highlight is a visit to Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany. You will recognize this as the model for the castle at Walt Disney World. Neuschwanstein was the creation of 'Mad' King Ludwig II of Bavaria who made it a habit to build elaborate castles with the state's money. Walk up the mountain where a tour of the castle is included. Return to Innsbruck for an afternoon concert performance by the Northview High School, followed by free time for sightseeing. Innsbruck is known for the Golden Roof Balcony. A special treat this evening will be attending a Tyrolean Folklore Show in Innsbruck, complete with yodeling, singing, and dancing.

Day 9 – FRI JULY 03 – AUSTRIA/LIECHTENSTEIN/SWITZERLAND...VISIT VADUZ, CONTINUE TO THE SWISS LAKE DISTRICT.

This morning, travel to the miniscule country of Liechtenstein and its capital, Vaduz. Here you'll have a chance to look around and shop a little bit. Liechtenstein is nestled between Switzerland and Austria and is a center for stamp collecting. During the late afternoon, cross the border into Switzerland and proceed to your hotel in the Swiss Mountain Lake District.

Day 10 – SAT JULY 04 – SWITZERLAND... MOUNT STANSERHORN AND LUCERNE. The day focuses on an unforgettable excursion to the top of Mount Stanserhorn, located on the edge of gorgeous Lake Lucerne. From the village of Stans take a cogwheel train and then a cable car up the 6,000-foot mountain for an incredible view. The Northview High School will perform in Stans as part of their village festival. Make a brief visit to the lovely town of Lucerne before returning to your Swiss Lake District hotel.

Day 11 – SUN JULY 05 – FRANCE...TRAVEL VIA THE BURGUNDY REGION TO TROYES. About the time the bells from the church break the silence of the night, it will be time to get ready for breakfast. Off you go in the direction of Basel, strategically situated at the point where Switzerland, Germany, and France meet. Cross the border into France. This will be a full day of travel through the Alsace and Burgundy Regions, with a brief stop near Besançon for lunch. Spend the night in Troyes. Paris is only a few hours away tomorrow. (The Adult Tour will have dinner along the way, arriving at their hotel before 10 pm for a two-night stay in Paris).

Day 12 – MON JULY 06 – FRANCE...PARIS. By 11 am, you enter Paris, the 'City of Light'. Start your exploration with a leisurely boat ride on the Seine River providing views of the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral. During the free time in Paris, students will be required to stay together in groups and may choose to visit one of the following: Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre Museum (free entrance for students 18 and under!), or the Arc de Triomphe. Stop in the Montmartre District for final impressions before transferring to your hotel. The student hotel is located a little over an hour north of Paris.

Day 13 – TUE JULY 07 – BELGIUM/HOLLAND ... VISIT ANTWERP IN BELGIUM AND TRAVEL THROUGH THE DUTCH LOWLANDS TO LELYSTAD.

Travel north and cross the border into Belgium. Make a lunch stop in Antwerp to view its beautiful guild houses and take a walk through the Old Town. The many friendly sidewalk cafes will tempt you to sit down and order a scrumptious Belgian waffle for lunch. Many of you will not be able to resist the chocolate shops. This afternoon you enter Holland and travel past windmills and over bridges into the Polderland (reclaimed land) on your way to your hotel in Lelystad.

Day 14 – WED JULY 08 – HOLLAND... AMSTERDAM AND DELFT. Transfer to Amsterdam this morning for an exciting boat ride through the canals of Holland's lively capital. The 17th-century canal houses with their gabled roofs are a photographer's delight, and the guide will tell many interesting and amazing stories about the city as you float along. In the afternoon, travel to Delft, a typical Dutch village. You will have the chance to try Dutch pancakes or poffertjes (mini pancakes) during your independent lunch. The Northview High School concert will perform on Delft's Market Square this afternoon. Return to the hotel in Lelystad for dinner.

Day 15 – THU JULY 09 – HOLLAND/GERMANY/USA...TRANSFER TO DUSSELDORF AIRPORT.

Depart at 6:30 am for the transfer to Dusseldorf Airport to check in for your flight home. Return to the States a richer person, having gained life-long impressions and memories.