Exploring Hungary and Its Reformed Heritage

Directed by
Dr. Corwin Smidt

September 24 – October 7, 2014
Once again, CALL and the CCAA have teamed up to offer a very special “tour with a purpose” for members, their families and friends!

This tour seeks to combine visits to popular sites with a deepening understanding of the breadth of the Reformed heritage in Europe. In so doing, we’ll spend several days discovering the treasures of Budapest, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe; and we’ll also explore other intriguing Hungarian cities that are usually not on the “beaten path” of American tourism. Throughout the tour, our sightseeing will be enriched by the focus given to aspects of the history of the Hungarian Reformed Church and its contemporary life, witness, and work.

The Hungarian Reformed Church is the largest Protestant denomination in Hungary, being four times as large as the Lutheran Church in Hungary; and it is a little less than half the size of the Hungarian Catholic Church. Despite its minority status in relationship to the Catholic Church, Reformed people have been among the central figures in Hungarian politics and public life.

Because Hungary lost two-thirds of its people and its territory following World War I, the Hungarian Reformed Church now embodies congregations in present-day Ukraine, Croatia, Slovakia, and Romania. Though we will not be able to visit Reformed congregations in all these settings, we will make a foray into the Ukraine, where we will see facets of the life and ministry of the Hungarian Reformed Church among both the Hungarian people and gypsies (Roma) in the region in our endeavor to better understand the workings of the Hungarian Reformed Church today.

Dr. Corwin Smidt is Professor of Political Science emeritus at Calvin College. Author and editor of 15 books related to religion and politics, Dr. Smidt has been invited to give lectures at various European universities—including several within Hungary. Corwin and his wife Marilyn have led the Semester in Hungary program of Calvin College. They have also visited Hungary on numerous other occasions and have continued to maintain friendships with a number of Hungarians within and outside the Hungarian Reformed Church. The Smidts have two children, both Calvin graduates and engaged in academic life, and four young grandchildren.

Tour Cost
$3,989 per person from Chicago
Departures from other cities arranged on request.
Register online at www.regonline.com/2014hungary or complete and return the Registration Form Registration by November 15, 2013 is encouraged, but will be accepted later providing space is still available.
September 2014
24, Wednesday Departure
Our tour begins with check-in at Chicago’s O’Hare Airport. Soon we’ll be on our way to Hungary! (D)

25, Thursday Budapest (Hungary)
Hello! We have just touched down at Ferenc Liszt International Airport. Following customs formalities, we will meet our Hungarian tour manager and driver and transfer into Budapest. Our first introduction to the Hungarian capital will begin on the Buda side of the Danube River. Here we’ll see the former Royal Palace, a number of museums, and remains of some churches. We’ll also see Fisherman’s Bastion and visit St. Matthias Church, one of Budapest’s greatest churches. Many of Hungary’s kings were crowned here and the church is home to important tombs and ecclesiastical treasures. Then we’ll take a break at a sidewalk café and those who wish can have coffee and try a delicious Hungarian pastry. Our last stop will be at Gellért Hill, where we will hear about its history, including its roles in WWII and in the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. From this vantage point you’ll be able to take some great pictures of the Danube with its many bridges and of the Pest side of the city. Then it’s on to our hotel where we’ll check in for a three-night stay. After time to settle in and rest, we’ll get together for our evening meal. (B, D)

26, Friday Budapest
After breakfast, we’re off to do some more sightseeing. Our first stop is at the Parliament. Stretching 268 meters along the Danube embankment, this building forms the most outstanding landmark on the Pest side of the city. When Parliament is not in session, a tour of the interior can be made—we hope to be able to do this. Then we’ll continue to Heroes Square with its museum, Millennium Monument (a UNESCO Heritage site) and the War Monument. Next comes immense St. Stephen’s Basilica, the most important church in Hungary. After time for lunch, we’ll turn our attention to Budapest’s Jewish heritage. A walk through the former Jewish Ghetto includes a visit to the second largest Synagogue in the world. We’ll end our afternoon with a visit to the Holocaust Museum. Following dinner, we plan to attend a performance by the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble or a similar group. (B, D)

27, Saturday Budapest
We’ll start our day with a visit to the Karoli Gaspar University of the Hungarian Reformed Church, located on Kalvin Square. We’ll also visit the nearby Raday Reformed Collegium and Seminary. Where we’ll hear a presentation about the history of the Hungarian Reformed Church. Following lunch at the school, we’ll walk to the Vaci utca, the famous shopping precinct. The remainder of the afternoon is yours to browse in this area, relax along the banks of the Danube River or visit one of the city’s many museums. Having lived for a semester in Budapest and having visited the city many times, Corwin and Marilyn will have numerous suggestions for your free time. Note that we’ll have more free time in Budapest on October 6 but that’s a Monday when many museums are closed, so if there’s a particular museum you want to visit, plan on doing it today! (B, L)

28, Sunday Budapest, Eger, Lillafured
Following attendance at the worship service at the Kalvin Square Reformed Church, we’ll be off to the picturesque city of Eger. Everyone who visits Eger loves it and it’s immediately apparent why: the beautifully-preserved baroque architecture gives the town a relaxed, almost Mediterranean, feel. It is also the home of the celebrated Egri Bikavér (Eger Bull’s Blood) wine and it is flanked by two of the Northern Uplands most inviting ranges. Eger is important to Hungarians because it was here that their forebears fended off the Turks in 1552. Later, the Turkish army was victorious and the city’s churches were converted into mosques, its destroyed castle rebuilt and public baths and minarets were built. We’ll visit the castle, the Basilica, the baroque Minorite Church, and the Library. In the late afternoon, we will continue to the Miskolc suburb of Lillafured, which will serve as our home for the next two nights. (B, D)

29, Monday Miskolc, Lillafured
A full-day excursion takes us into Miskolc, Hungary’s third largest city. We’ll start with a visit to the offices of the Reformed Church; and, if possible, we’ll meet with the Bishop. (Note that the Hungarian Reformed Church, and the Reformed Church in Poland, are the only two Reformed bodies in the world that employ an episcopal form of ecclesiology.) Our sightseeing will include the Plank Church, a replica of a 17th-century Transylvania-style wooden church, and the Avas Church, dating back to the 14th century. Our day will also include a visit to one of the church schools operated under the auspices of the Hungarian Reformed Church. Last but not least, we’ll visit the four-towered 13th-century Diosgyor Castle. (B, D)
30, Tuesday  Debrecen
This morning’s trip takes us to Szarospatak, a relatively small, yet significant, city in the life of Hungary and the Hungarian Reformed Church. The main sights are the renowned Renaissance castle, which has figured prominently in Hungarian history, the Reformed College founded in 1531, and the Hungarian Reformed Church Seminary. The College was Hungary’s most eminent institution at the time. Between 1650 and 1654, Comenius, the inventor of the modern education system, taught at the College; and later Lazo Kossuth, an important leader in the Hungarian independence movement, was a student here. Upon our arrival, we will visit the historic Reformed Church Seminary and its impressive library. During the afternoon, we’ll visit the Rackozi Castle and Museum, as well as the nearby wine cellars that run under a big part of this town. There is a possibility that we may hear an organ concert at the Castle Church. (B, L, D)

October 2014

1, Wednesday  Nagydobrony, Munkacs (Ukraine)
This morning’s drive will take us into the Hungarian-speaking area of the Ukraine, also referred to as Carpathia. David Pandy-Szekeress, a Canadian with Hungarian roots, will travel with us. Our first stop is in the small town of Nagydobrony. Here we’ll meet the Reformed Church pastor, see the Christian school, and visit the nearby Reformed Gypsy Church and its school. Our overnight accommodations for the next two nights will be in Munkacs. This city has been Hungarian since 1018. However, in the 16th century, it became part of the Transylvania Principality, was later ruled by Austria, then occupied by Czechoslovakia, re-annexed by Hungary in 1938, captured by the Red Army in 1944, became part of the Soviet Union in 1945, and is now part of the Ukraine. With the help of our guides, we’ll learn much about the history of this troubled corner of Central Europe. (B, L, D)

2, Thursday  Nagybereg, Beregszasz, Munkacs
After breakfast, we will travel to Nagybereg to visit its Reformed Church and Christian school. After lunch, we’ll continue to nearby Beregszasz for a city tour and a meeting with one of the Reformed pastors. Then it’s back to Munkacs for dinner and the night. (B, L, D)

3, Friday  Csanoda, Takos, Debrecen (Hungary)
This morning we return to present-day Hungary. Our first stop will be in Csanoda where we will visit the beautiful Romanesque church with its Western- and Eastern-style frescoes. We next stop in Takos to visit the 18th-century Reformed Church with its spectacular painted, coffered ceiling of blue and red flowers, an ornately carved ‘folk baroque’ pulpit, and a perfectly-preserved bell tower. After this visit, we’ll have a relaxing drive to Debrecen, a well-known center of Hungarian Calvinism — that is sometimes referred to as the “Calvinist Rome.” The centrally-located hotel where we’ll be headquartered for the next two nights is within walking distance to some of its foremost historic sites. (B, L, D)

4, Saturday  Debrecen
The morning is yours to sleep in, have a first look around or do some shopping. In the afternoon, we’ll visit the immense Great Church—the largest Reformed church in Hungary, which seats some 3,000 people. It was here that the Declaration of Independence from Austria was read on April 14, 1849. We will also visit the Reformed College with its interesting collection of religious art and its impressive library. (B, D)

5, Sunday  Debrecen, Budapest
This morning we’ll have an opportunity to attend a worship service at one Debrecen’s many Reformed churches. After time for lunch, we’ll travel back to Budapest for the last two nights of our tour. Following hotel check-in, dinner will be served. (B, D)

6, Monday  Budapest
The entire day is at leisure to finish your list of “must-sees” in Budapest—Along with shopping, you can return to favorite spots in the city or discover areas you haven’t visited before. Again, Corwin and Marilyn will be on hand to offer suggestions; and in the afternoon, they’ll invite you to join them at one of the famous public baths. This evening we’ll have our farewell dinner at a restaurant with gypsy music. (B, D)

7, Tuesday  Return
All too soon, it’s time to head for home! An early-morning transfer takes us back to the airport to check in for our return flights. With a change of planes en route, we anticipate arriving in Chicago in the middle of the afternoon. We hope your tour has been inspiring, educational—and lots of fun! (B, L)
REGISTRATION FORM
Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning
and the Calvin College Alumni Association
Exploring Hungary and Its Reformed Heritage
September 24 – October 7, 2014
$3,989 per person from Chicago

PASSENGER DETAILS
1. NAME - EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT - Print Clearly

Last First Full Middle □ I do not have a middle name
□ Male □ Female Nickname (for nametag)________________________

Birthdate mm/dd/yyyy Citizenship: □ U.S. □ Other ________________________________
□ Male □ Female

Passport # __________________________ Exp. Date mm/dd/yyyy

Home Phone / __________________ Work Phone / __________________

Cell Phone / __________________ Preferred Contact # □ Home □ Work □ Cell

E-mail ____________________________

Would you like to be contacted by email regarding future tours & travel promotions? □ Yes □ No

□ Vegetarian □ Diabetic □ Low Sodium □ Gluten free □ Other________________________

2. NAME - EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT - Print Clearly

Last First Full Middle □ I do not have a middle name
□ Male □ Female Nickname (for nametag)________________________

Birthdate mm/dd/yyyy Citizenship: □ U.S. □ Other ________________________________

Passport # __________________________ Exp. Date mm/dd/yyyy

Work Phone / __________________ Cell Phone / __________________

Preferred Contact # □ Home □ Work □ Cell E-mail ____________________________

Would you like to be contacted by email regarding future tours & travel promotions? □ Yes □ No

□ Vegetarian □ Diabetic □ Low Sodium □ Gluten free □ Other________________________

MAILING ADDRESS
NOTE: ALL MAILINGS PERTAINING TO THIS REGISTRATION WILL BE SENT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW

Street Address __________________________ P.O. Box________

City __________________________ State _________ Zip ____________

EMERGENCY CONTACT
________________________ Phone / __________________

Registration and deposits are encourage by November 15, 2013, but will be accepted later provided space is still available.

Register online at
www.regonline.com/2014hungary
or
Return this form to
Witte Travel & Tours
3250 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

Enclose your deposit of $500 per person made payable to Witte Travel or complete the attached credit card payment form.

Refer to the Terms and Conditions for the payment schedule. If you are registering after further payments are due, include sufficient funds to bring your account up to date.

Be sure to indicate, on reverse, if you wish to purchase or decline travel protection.

PASSPORTS must be valid for at least three months beyond your intended return. See “Documentation” in the terms and conditions for more information.

MAILING ADDRESS
NOTE: ALL MAILINGS PERTAINING TO THIS REGISTRATION WILL BE SENT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW

Street Address __________________________ P.O. Box________

City __________________________ State _________ Zip ____________

EMERGENCY CONTACT
________________________ Phone / __________________
ROOMMATE/ACCOMMODATIONS

☐ I plan to have a roommate (name if not listed on Application):
_______________________________________________________________________________

☐ Roommate not yet known    ☐ I need assistance finding a roommate.
I understand that if a roommate is not available, I will be responsible for the cost of single accommodations.

☐ I prefer single occupancy    ☐ Smoke    ☐ Do not smoke

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Indicate below if you wish to purchase or decline travel protection. To purchase travel protection, add the full premium to your deposit check or authorize Witte Travel to charge the premium to your credit card along with your deposit.

The per person premium for this travel protection is $173.*

☐ I/we wish to purchase the travel protection.
Check one:
☐ Full payment of the premium is included with my/our deposit check.
☐ Witte Travel is authorized to charge the full cost of the premium to my/our credit card along with the deposit.

☐ I/we wish to decline the travel protection at this time. I/we understand that this travel protection can be purchased later, as long as it is done prior to making final payment on the tour.

*It may be necessary to increase the premium for participants who require single accommodations and for those who purchase additional services and/or upgrade their arrangements.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Upon confirmation of your special arrangements, a nonrefundable service fee of $75 per person will be added to your account along with any additional air or land costs that may apply.

Domestic Flight Connections: Roundtrip from __________________________ to __________________________.

Special Air Arrangements: To spend additional time in Europe, I/we would like to depart on __________________________ and return on __________________________.

To request special land arrangements—car rentals, hotels, rail, etc., include a note and we’ll contact you.

SIGNATURE

1. __________________________________________ Date __________

2. __________________________________________ Date __________

Important Note – Payment reminders will be emailed to travelers who provide their email addresses. Everyone else will receive payment reminders by regular mail.
CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FORM
Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning and the Calvin College Alumni Association
Exploring Hungary and Its Reformed Heritage
September 24 – October 7, 2014

PASSenger Name(S) ____________________________________________
(Please Print)

Type of card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Credit card number ____________________________________________

Expiration date __________________________ Security code __________________________

Name as it appears on card ____________________________________________
(Please Print)

Billing address of credit card (if other than on registration form):

Street Address ____________________________________________ P.O. Box __________

City __________________________ State __________ Zip __________

Billing phone ________ / __________________________

I hereby authorize Witte Travel & Tours to charge this credit card, per the schedule below, for all payments for the passenger names listed above. I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions as indicated in the brochure.

Cardholder’s signature ____________________________________________ Date __________

NOTE: If a payment is due on a Saturday, Sunday or Holiday, it will be billed to your credit card on the next business day.

For office use only

Reservation ID ____________________________________________

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:
Deposit of $500 per person with Registration by November 15, 2013
Payment of $1,000 per person by February 1
Payment of $1,000 per person by May 1
Balance due approximately 30 to 45 days prior to departure
The cost of your tour includes:

Air transportation Round trip from Chicago to Budapest with any regularly scheduled air carrier, based on a nonrefundable/nonchangeable fare, which requires a minimum of 10 passengers traveling roundtrip together. A change of planes will be made en route in both directions. Tickets are issued 45 days prior to departure.

Passengers who cancel after tickets are issued will forfeit the total airfare in connection with the penalties noted under “Cancellation and Refunds.” If cancellation results from the documented hospitalization or death of the passenger, part of the airfare penalty may be waived. All current airlines taxes, security fees and fuel surcharges are included. Note that these items cannot be guaranteed until tickets are issued.

Secure flight information. The requirement to collect date of birth, gender, and full name are federally mandated by the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Secure Flight Program. While disclosure of this information is voluntary, if it is not provided, participants may be denied boarding. For TSA’s policy and more information, visit http://www.tsa.gov and search on Secure Flight. Witte Travel & Tours (Witte) takes all reasonable steps to safeguard the privacy of all information collected from its clients.

Frequent flyer points are not guaranteed in connection with group airfares. Some airlines may limit group airfare credits to 25% to 50% of the frequent flyer points that apply to individuals while others do not offer any credits for group airfares.

Land transportation. A deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach is used for transfers, excursions, and travel between cities. Because motorcoach travel is restricted in many European cities, sightseeing is often done on foot or via public transportation.

Accommodations based on two persons sharing a room with private facilities. Most hotels we use range from moderate first-class to standard first-class. When hotels in these categories are not available, top-quality superior tourist-class properties are selected.

The supplement for single accommodations is $500. If you register alone but want a roommate, we will do our best to assign one. If a single room must be assigned to any member of the group for any reason, even if it is at the last minute or while on tour, we will need to charge the single supplement. Changes in rooming arrangements requested by the participant 45 or fewer days prior to departure may result in additional charges.

Meals. Breakfast is provided daily at the hotels. Lunch is included on September 27 and 30 and on October 1, 2 and 3. Dinner is included each day except September 27.

A multi-lingual tour manager to accompany the group from arrival in Hungary until departure. The tour manager may be assisted by local guides as needed.

Sightseeing and admission fees in accordance with the itinerary.

Porterage of one suitcase—with a maximum size of 62” (height plus width plus depth) and weight of 50 pounds—per person is provided at hotels to the greatest extent possible. Porterage is not provided at airports and some hotels do not have porters. You may also carry a purse, a camera, and one small piece of hand luggage weighing no more than 15 pounds and measuring 45” (height plus width plus depth). Soft-sided hand luggage is recommended, but wheeled carry-ons are acceptable. Note that hand luggage does not fit in the overhead bins on the motorcoach. There may be room for hand luggage in the storage compartments under the motorcoach or by an empty seat inside the motorcoach. If not, it will need to be placed on the floor in front of your feet. The size and weight restrictions noted for suitcases and hand luggage conform to most airlines’ requirements.

Tipping and taxes are included for all services, including the tip for the tour manager and motorcoach driver.

The tour cost does not include passports, airline luggage fees, optional excursions, independent meals, and any other items not mentioned as included.

Insecticide Disclosure. Some countries require that aircraft be treated with insecticides prior to flight or while occupied. For a list of the countries with insecticide requirements, go to http://airconsumer.dot.gov/spray.htm.

Optional travel protection. Witte recommends each traveler purchase a complete travel protection plan. For your convenience, we make available a travel protection plan offered by Travelx Insurance Services, which can be purchased at any time prior to making the final payment for your tour. The policy exclusion for pre-existing conditions is waived if your premium is received by Witte within 14 days of the initial deposit for your tour, provided you are not disabled from travel at the time you pay your premium. Tours over 30 days are not eligible for coverage. The travel protection premium that applies to your tour is noted on the Registration Form. It may be necessary to increase the premium for those participants who purchase additional services and/or upgrade their arrangements. The travel protection premium is nonrefundable. The travel protection plan does not cover any travel arrangements not made by or purchased from Witte.

Schedule of Coverages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Coverage</th>
<th>Maximum Benefit Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accidental Death &amp; Dismemberment</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Expense/Emergency Assistance</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accident and Sickness Medical Expense</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Evacuation and Repatriation</td>
<td>$750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Departure Trip Cancellation</td>
<td>$750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Departure Trip Interruption</td>
<td>150% of Trip Cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missed Connection</td>
<td>$750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Delay (Up to $150 per day)</td>
<td>$750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baggage / Personal Effects</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baggage Delay</td>
<td>$250</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Certain exclusions and limitations apply and are detailed in the Description of Coverage. For example, coverage does not apply to any sickness or condition of a Traveling Companion or Family Member traveling with you that existed during the 60 days prior to the effective date of the coverages (this exclusion is waived if your premium is received within 14 days of the initial deposit/payment for your tour), suicide, normal pregnancy, mental or nervous disorders. A Traveling Companion is defined as a person or persons with whom you have coordinated travel arrangements and intend to travel with during the tour. Sickness or injury must commence while the travel protection plan is in effect for you. This plan does not cover a loss that results from an illness, disease or condition (of you, a Family Member, Traveling Companion or Business Partner), event or circumstance that occurs at a time when the plan is not in effect for you. A Description of Coverage detailing the coverages, provisions, limitations and exclusions of the insurance offered will be included in the confirmation packets of travelers who purchase this travel protection. For more information prior to purchase, visit the Witte website at www.tripmate.com/wF431W. A copy of the Description of Coverage may also be requested from our office at any time. This plan is underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company, Eatontown, NJ.

Documentation: U.S. citizens are required to have a valid passport. If you already have a passport, check its expiration date now since the countries visited on this tour require passports to be valid for at least three months beyond the traveler’s intended return date. If your passport is due to expire earlier, you will need to obtain a new one. If you do not have a passport or need a new one, apply as soon as possible. If you plan to visit other countries on your own, contact Witte for any special requirements. All non-U.S. citizens should contact Witte for their special requirements. We will check the requirements for non-U.S. citizens at the time they register and again approximately 45 days prior to departure. Witte is not responsible for any changes in requirements for non-U.S. citizens that occur after our final check.

Minor children traveling internationally without both parents are encouraged to carry a notarized note signed by both parents stating that they have permission to travel without one or both of them. Although this is not a requirement, it will save time if questions arise while clearing customs.
Tour cost. The tour cost is based on a group of 25 passengers, current tariffs for air and land arrangements, and on an exchange rate of $1.30 to €1.00.

Note that airlines, land arrangements suppliers and governments may impose additional fees, fuel surcharges or taxes after the tour is advertised and participants are registered. Such changes may result in a tour cost increase. It may also be necessary to increase the tour cost due to exchange rate fluctuations or a smaller group size. Before passing on an increase, Witte will use its best efforts to minimize the amount. If it is necessary to increase the tour cost, participants will be advised at final billing and provided with a summary of the contributing factors.

Reservations and payments. To make reservations on this tour, complete the Registration Form and return it as indicated. Reservations cannot be accepted over the telephone. Payments are due as follows:

- Deposit of $500 per person with Registration Form. Registration by November 15, 2013 is encouraged, but will be accepted later, provided space is still available.
- Payment of $1,000 per person by February 1
- Payment of $1,000 per person by May 1
- Balance due on receipt of final invoice sent approximately 30 to 45 days prior to departure

If you are registering for the tour after one of the above payment dates, increase your deposit amount accordingly so your account will be up to date. Please note that checks returned due to insufficient funds are subject to a $30 service fee.

Credit card payments. Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express credit cards are accepted for the deposit and scheduled payments. The deposit charge is processed shortly after receipt of your registration form. Subsequent payments are charged per the payment schedule.

Cancellations and refunds. Witte must receive notice of cancellation in writing. Penalties are per person and will be based on the date of receipt, as follows:

- More than 120 days prior to departure - $100
- Between 120 and 91 days prior to departure - $175
- Between 90 and 61 days prior to departure - $325
- Between 60 and 31 days prior to departure - $475
- 30 or fewer days prior to departure - No Refund

The above penalties apply to the cost of the land arrangements and are in addition to the airfare penalty noted under “Air Transportation.” The service fee noted under “Special Flight Arrangements,” the nonrefundable portion any special arrangements made on behalf of the canceling participant and the cost of travel protection, is also added to the above penalties. Cancellation insurance is available. Allow four to six weeks for processing of refunds. Note that payments made by check are refunded by check to the person or organization that made the payments, and payments charged to a credit card are credited back to the same credit card.

Membership. Witte reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a member of the tour and to expel from the tour any participant whose conduct is incompatible with the interest of the group. Each special needs participant must be accompanied by a qualified helper who assumes total responsibility for his/her well-being. Witte reserves the right to exclude from the tour any special needs person whose condition impairs customary operation of the tour.

Land-only participants. If you wish to make your own flight arrangements, contact Witte for the land-only cost at least 90 days prior to departure. Participants who make their own flight arrangements are strongly encouraged to coordinate their flight schedules with the group’s flight schedule and to use the same airports. The group’s airport transfers on the arrival and return days will be timed to the group’s flight schedule. Land-only participants may need to arrange for their own airport transfers. Contact Witte for information and costs on options for private transfers. Witte cannot be responsible for any inconveniences to land-only participants resulting from changes in the group’s flight schedule. Participants who change their status to land-only less than 90 days prior to departure may be subject to penalties imposed by the airlines.

Domestic flight connections. Note on your registration form if you would like to fly to and from the international departure city. You will be contacted with schedule options and costs. Witte must receive requests for connecting flights at least 45 days prior to departure.

Special flight arrangements. Note on your registration form if you would like to extend your stay and/or depart from and/or return to another city. The number of passengers who can deviate from the group’s flight schedule is restricted. You will be contacted to let you know if the arrangements you requested are possible and to advise you of schedule options and costs. Upon confirmation of your special arrangements, a nonrefundable service fee of $75 per person will be added to your account along with any additional air or land costs that may apply. In the event of cancellation, the service fee and any nonrefundable portion of special air or land arrangements made for you will be added to the penalties noted under “Cancellations and Refunds.” Witte must receive requests for special flight arrangements at least 45 days prior to departure.

Special Meal Requests. Indicate on your registration form if you need vegetarian, diabetic, gluten-free, or low-sodium meals. Special meal requests cannot be guaranteed, but we will pass them on to the airlines and hotels. We will also inform your tour personnel, who will make every effort to see that your requests are met. Witte must receive requests for special meals at least 45 days prior to departure.

Time away from the tour. Advise Witte in writing at least 45 days before departure if you plan to spend some time away from the tour. Wherever possible, you will be credited for missed hotel nights.

Final tour documents—including itinerary, hotel list, passenger list, flight schedules with departure instructions, and luggage tags—are sent about 10 days prior to departure. Flight tickets are usually made available at the airport at check-in time.

Responsibility. As the tour operator, Witte Travel & Tours will be responsible for supplying the services and accommodations outlined in the brochure as constituting the tour, except to the extent that such services cannot be supplied, wholly or partially, owing to circumstances beyond its control. In such cases, Witte Travel & Tours will use its best efforts to supply alternative services and accommodations, and no refunds will be granted provided that the alternatives are comparable to the original services and accommodations included in the tour cost. Witte Travel & Tours, its agents, sponsors, organizers and employees shall not be responsible for any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay, irregularity or expense arising from strikes, weather, sickness, acts of war or terrorism, governmental restrictions or regulations or from any act or omission on the part of any individual or company furnishing transportation, accommodations or any other services to the tour participants; nor shall Witte Travel & Tours be responsible for any injuries, death, damages, loss or delay in any means of transportation or by reason of any event beyond its actual control. Witte Travel & Tours reserves the right to make changes in the tour dates or itinerary routing should circumstances make such necessary. In case of insufficient participation, Witte Travel & Tours may cancel the tour. In the event of cancellation of the tour by Witte Travel & Tours, its liability will be limited to a refund in full of all monies paid by the participants. If available, Witte Travel & Tours will offer an alternative trip, which the participants may accept or reject. California Passengers: Witte Travel & Tours is licensed under the California Seller of Travel Act—registration number 201-3304-40. Witte Travel & Tours is a member of the National Tour Association, the mark of excellence in the group tour industry. Witte is the North American travel partner for Refo500, an organization that seeks to demonstrate the continuing relevance of the Reformation.

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