

Haston/Hiestand European Heritage Tour



Richterswil, Switzerland, along Lake Zürich

June 14-27, 2023

This 14-day tour will visit historic Mennonite/Anabaptist sites in Switzerland and Germany including visiting ancestral villages with an emphasis on the Haston/Hiestand family. It also includes stops pertaining to our Mennonite/Anabaptist heritage.

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Those flying with the Masts, will fly to Frankfurt, Germany, with vehicles parked at Morgantown, Pa., and transportation provided to the airport for departure in the evening. [Tour participants are most welcome to fly directly to Frankfurt a day earlier and check-in overnight at the Hilton Garden Inn Frankfurt Airport where you will be picked up the next day when the group arrives flying direct from Philadelphia to Frankfurt.]

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Our chartered bus will pick us up at the Frankfurt Airport and then pick-up those at the Hilton Garden Inn to begin our journey through the land of our ancestors! Our first stop today is at Schriesheim, Germany, to walk the old part of town—the birthplace of Alexander Mack—founder of the Church of the Brethren. Our first lunch in Europe will be in the old Strahlenburg Castle. Then it is on to the Black Forest for overnight. Of course, time will be provided to learn about cuckoo clocks (and buy one).

Friday, June 16, 2023

Leaving Germany and entering Switzerland, we will stop at Schaffhausen to see the largest waterfalls in Europe—the Rheinfalls. Then it is on to the Hiestand Bakery at Schlileren (suburb of Zürich) for lunch! What a privilege to meet Swiss Hiestands! For the next four nights, we are staying at the same hotel in the Zürich area because the earliest known record of our Hiestand



Hiestands lived near Richterswil before coming to America. Here is a picture of the highest jet fountain in the world operated purely by gravity at Richterswil.

ancestors is a 1401 tax record in Zürich Switzerland. Other ancestors from this region include Baer, Brubaker/Bruppacher, Denlinger/Dandliker, Hiestand, Landis, Nissley/Nussli, and Strickler. If the weather is nice, we will enjoy the Adliswil-Felsenegg cable car ride overlooking Lake Zurich with the city of Zurich in the distance.



Walking up to the Anabaptist Cave is certainly a rewarding accomplishment not only for the needed exercise, but also for the unique experience!

Saturday, June 17, 2023

Today is a special day as we drive to Bäretswil for a hike up to the *Täuferhöhle* (Anabaptist Cave) where Mennonites are known to have worshipped in secret. As we hike up the hill past cows with ringing cowbells, we consider the freedom we experience today to worship unmolested in stark comparison to how our ancestors would hike to this cave at night. After a meal at a the nearby restored mill, we will drive into the city of Zürich for an Anabaptist Walking Tour. This was the birthplace of Anabaptism in 1525 as we see the Fraumünster Cathedral with its' five famous stained glass windows by Marc Chagall, the Grossmünster Cathedral with its massive bronze cast doors depicting the Reformation story, and



Memorial plaque along the Limmat River in Zürich shows the site where early Anabaptist Felix Manz was drowned in 1527. The Grossmünster Cathedral is in the distance.



Ruins of the Richterswil Castle that date back to the 1200s. We will explore this site near where our Hiestand ancestors lived before first moving to Germany and then later emigrating to America. If the weather cooperates, we will enjoy a picnic lunch nearby.

the memorial stone along the Limmat River—site where Anabaptist Felix Manz was drowned in 1527, and where Preacher Hans Landis was beheaded in 1614. As we walk the same cobblestone streets our ancestors walked, this journey becomes a spiritual journey.

Sunday, June 18, 2023

Today will be spent in the vicinity of Richterswil and Wädneswil where the Hiestands lived. Usually the famous Fountain (pictured on page one) can be seen spouting off on Sundays which will provide some good photos. We will also explore the castle ruins after our morning worship in the Allmend Trust Forest followed by a picnic lunch. Another highlight will be a delightful cruise on Lake Zürich.



Enjoy our Sunday afternoon cruise on Lake Zürich.

Monday, June 19, 2023

Back into Zurich this morning to visit the *Landesmuseum* (National Museum) to learn the Swiss cultural history since its beginnings. The afternoon will include a stop at the Swiss village of Hirzel where Landises lived dating back to the 1500s. This is



This is how Wädneswil along Lake Zürich looked like in 1794 as it was painted by Swiss artist Heinrich Bruppacher. We know that our Immigrant Henrich Hiestand came to America in 1727 after living at Ibersheim, Germany, before emigrating.

also the hometown of Johanna Spyri—author of *Heidi*. The Hirzel Reformed Church was built with monies obtained from Mennonite properties sold after they were banished!

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Leaving the Zürich region, we will drive to the Einsiedeln Monastery founded in 934—a site visited by thousands of Catholics every year. Find the Black Madonna and quietly worship amidst the gold furniture. From here we drive to Lucerne for shopping and to enjoy the famed wooden chapel bridge with historic paintings in the gables. Wait till you see the large unique paintings on the buildings! Then an afternoon drive south into the Alps for amazing scenery before arriving at Brienz along Lake Brienz. Tonight we will enjoy alp horn music and yodeling before a Swiss Cheese fondue dinner.

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

This morning, we will walk through the Ballenberg Open-Air Museum containing 100+ century-old buildings from all over Switzerland, 250 farmyard animals, old-time gardens, and demonstrations of rural life depicting how our ancestors lived. We are in for a delightful surprise this afternoon and evening as we

take a scenic cable car ride up to the mountain town of Mürren to see amazing views of the Swiss Alps and then sleep there!

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Our breakfast this morning will be on top of the Schilthorn summit after taking another cable-car ride higher up into the Alps to eat in a revolving restaurant. The spectacular views of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau snow-capped mountains plus more than 200 other summits are breathtakingly awesome especially if the weather is clear! Back down and on the bus, we will drive through Thun and Steffisburg where many other Mennonites lived and were imprisoned for their

faith. The beauty of the Swiss landscape dotted with farms where many Mennonites lived will amaze us this morning as we drive deeper into the Emmental region of Switzerland. Our lunch stop is at the Kambly Swiss Cookie Factory to sample dozens of Swiss cookies (all free but we will also buy some to take home)! A stop at the Swiss Cowbell Factory to buy a cow bell, before driving past the oldest, continuous Mennonite Church in the world at Langnau with names such as Amstutz, Gerber, Hirschy, and Lehman in the cemetery today. We will stay at the same hotel for the next two nights.



Famous 13th century Clock Tower in the city of Bern that was seen by our ancestors before they came to America.

Friday, June 23, 2023

One of our favorite shopping places in this area is at the Jakob Markt where the locals shop! Here is the best place to buy Swiss lace curtains, and the delicious Swiss chocolate bars to fill your luggage to take back home. While most of us shop, the rest can drink a cup of free coffee. Then it is on to the Swiss capital city of Bern to watch the famous clock tower turn to a new hour, enjoy the bear pits, and tour the impressive cathedral on an Anabaptist Walking Tour. Following lunch at a city café, we are off to visit our friends Simon and Regula Fankhauser who live at the *Täuferversteck*—a hiding place for Mennonites dating back to the 1600s.



*It is a solemn moment to consider placing one of our group into the stocks in an old prison cell at **Trachselwald Castle**.*

Saturday, June 24, 2023

Our first stop this morning is at the old Trachselwald Castle built in 1200 A.D. where Brechbill, Mosimann, Leichty, and Sommer Mennonites were imprisoned in prison cells there in the 1500s and 1600s and can be seen yet today. Before leaving Switzerland,



*Oh those amazing **snowy Alps** that we will see out our bedroom window at **Mürren**! And then we go up higher yet the next morning for breakfast!*

land, we will stop at a cheese factory to watch cheese made and even buy some shrink-wrapped cheese to take home. Then it is time to enter Germany where we will sleep at the same hotel in Worms for the next three nights—another great place for some shopping. Worms is an ancient Celtic city with a cathedral where Martin Luther was on trial. The world's largest Reformation Monument is less than a block from our hotel where we will see Martin Luther and 11 other early Reformation leaders.

Sunday, June 25, 2023

It will be a special privilege to worship with members of Ibersheim Mennonite Church this morning where the Hiestand, Brubacher, Dentlinger, Gochnauer, Leitweller, Reif, and Stauffer families lived before coming to America. An afternoon walking tour of this town to see where our Mennonite ancestors lived here back to 1683.

Monday, June 26, 2023

A morning drive will bring us to St. Goar along the Rhine River where we board our cruise ship for a relaxing cruise that will take us past the same castles that our ancestors passed when they were on their way to America.

But we will not be required to stop and pay a tax at every castle like our ancestors were required to pay. After disembarking our cruise ship, we will return to our hotel in Worms for a Good-bye Party following our evening dinner.

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Fly home from the Frankfurt Airport with many good memories.



*One of the many castles that we will pass by on our Rhine River cruise. This toll castle was built between 1326 and 1327 and is called the **Pfalzgrafenstein Castle**.*



Grape vineyards along the Rhine River.



Lovely Swiss Edelweiss,



Colorful flower boxes are everywhere!

— TOUR FEATURES AND CONDITIONS —

TOUR PRICE: \$3,800.00 per person for land cost only based on double occupancy (add \$700 for a single room). Each participant is responsible for their own airfare, although if you are interested in parking your vehicle cost-free at Masthof (Morgantown, Pa.) while we are in Europe with roundtrip transportation provided, airfare tickets can be purchased by the Masts (exact price not known until nine months before departure). Interested persons traveling with the Masts, should provide that information with deposit. The projected cost for bus transportation to and from the airport will be about \$60 roundtrip per person (depends on the number of persons). **Those not traveling with the Masts do need to fly over a day earlier on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, and stay at the Hilton Garden Inn Frankfurt Airport Hotel (your expense) for pick-up early the next morning.**

MEALS: Continental breakfast each morning and dinner each evening (excludes beverages) are provided. Lunches are on our own, although suggestions will be given.

BAGGAGE: Motorcoach capacity limits tour participants to one large suitcase per person plus a carry-on bag, so only one large suitcase plus “underseat” baggage, please. Airline baggage limits apply to the tour: luggage may not exceed a combined length, width, and height of 106 inches provided no bag exceeds 62 inches in width. The carry-on bag total dimensions limit is 45 inches, and cannot weigh more than 50 pounds.

SIGHTSEEING AND ENTRANCE FEES: Entrance fees are included to all places mentioned in this itinerary.

TIPS AND TAXES: Applicable taxes and service charges for program features are included. All tips to hotel staff for included services and meals and to bus driver are included.

NOT INCLUDED: Passport fee, travel insurance if your situation deems necessary, meals at noontime, beverages with included dinners, and personal expenses are not included. Details on the use of credit card and using the country’s currency will be provided closer to our departure.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$800.00 per person is requested to hold space on this tour. The remaining \$3,000 will be due on or before January 1, 2023, as space permits. Pending availability, reservations will be accepted after January 1, 2023.

CANCELLATION CONDITIONS: Full refund granted if cancellation is received by January 1, 2023. Cancellation after January 1, 2023, will result in a full refund less airline ticket cost (if Masts purchases your airline ticket).

PASSPORTS: A valid passport is required. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one immediately. If you have a passport, please verify that it is valid until at least December 31, 2023. No visa is required.

ALL RATES AND FARES ARE CALCULATED ON PRICES IN EFFECT AS OF APRIL 1, 2021, AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. TOUR PRICE IS BASED ON THE PARTICIPATION OF 35 PERSONS.

Mennonite Family History, 219 Mill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543-9516 • mast@masthof.com • 484-798-8556

Please reserve space for _____ person(s) on the 2023 *Haston/Hiestand European Heritage Tour*. Check should be payable to “**Mennonite Family History.**” Enclosed is my deposit check of \$ _____. (\$700.00 deposit per person).

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone & E-mail: _____

I prefer that the Masts obtain airline tickets and I will plan to park a vehicle at Masthof, Morgantown, Pa.