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## Hottenstein Family Germany Heritage Tour August 29 - September 7, 2019



### Day 1, Thursday, August 29

This is the day we have been anticipating as we arrive in Philadelphia, Newark or Washington Dulles airports, for the overnight flight to Frankfurt, Germany. Hopefully you are able to sleep on the flight so you can enjoy our first day.

### Day 2, Friday, August 30

Dinner Included



We arrive in Frankfurt this morning and are met with a smile from our driver. Today, our drive takes us through the wooded hills and open farmland of Upper Bavaria, south to the snow-capped peaks of the Bavarian Alps. **Nördlingen** is our first stop for lunch. Visiting this medieval walled city is like stepping into a time warp. A visit to **Oberndorf**, to see the chapel where probably the world's

most beloved Christmas song - "Silent Night! Holy Night!" - was originally performed, is something rather special. Salzburg will be our destination today.



### Day 3, Saturday, August 31

Breakfast & Dinner Included

You have the entire day in Salzburg to do as you please. Maybe a Sound of Music Tour, a Mozart tour, or a Salt Mine tour and the Eagle's Nest is to your liking. Or you might want to spend the day discovering this wonderful, musical city on your own - visit all the churches, explore the Fortress, enjoy the small shops and people watching are all fun ways to spend the day. As the lights illuminate the evening and music fills the air, the atmosphere is festive in this "City of Mozart." You have all day to take in all the beauty of this incredibly musical city.

### Day 4, Sunday, September 1

Breakfast & Dinner Included



Snow-dusted peaks to mountain meadows and chocolate-box towns stretching far into the distance; the Arlberg Pass is hailed as one of the worlds' most spectacular routes. Linking East and West, the Arlberg Pass has been an important but hazardous trade route linking the Inn Valley and Western Europe since the Middle Ages. Today it is a beautiful scenic route over the Arlberg Mountains as we leave Austria behind and cross into Germany near Lake Constance, where the Rhine River flows through. The Black Forest is our destination today. We stay overnight in Freiburg tonight.

### Day 5, Monday, September 2

Breakfast & Dinner Included

Today we hope to visit with our German cousins- **Adolf and Ursula Hottenstein Goetzberger and their son, Oliver**, and enjoy lunch at the **Freiburg Market**. A famous Freiburg Sausage may be just the thing. Ursula and Adolf visited the Hottenstein Reunion several times, and it will be fun to have them show us around their town and experience their culture. Freiburg's Munsterplatz Market is one of Europe's nicest and biggest markets filled with local farmers' stands. After a good lunch, we are off to the **Vogtbaurnhof-Black Forest Open Air Museum**. This may bring back memories of visiting your grandparents if you have German ancestors. Then we drive north to **Karlsruhe** to see the home Ursula's father, Karl Hottenstein, built. Karl & Hilga hosted Dr. David Hottenstein and his wife when they spent a summer in Germany to research the Hottenstein history. We may also have the opportunity to visit Karl & Hilga's gravesite, which is very interesting to see and hear the history.



### Day 6, Tuesday, September 3

Breakfast & Dinner Included



Today is the day we have been waiting for. Johann Jacob, Johann David and Johann Leonard Hottenstein are all from **Ittlingen** and are in the town history book, a copy of which was given to us on the first Hottenstein visit in 1999. His son, Johann Jacob Hottenstein was looking for adventure and joined local Anabaptists who immigrated to America, landing in Philadelphia. The Rathaus, which is seen in Dr. David Hottenstein's research, is still there and easily recognized, although it is now a school. We will spend the morning in the village before continuing north to **Michelstadt** - a quaint, medieval town with storybook charm. Our home for the night is romantic **Assmannshausen/Rudesheim**, the gateway to the wine-growing upper middle Rhine Valley.

### Day 7, Wednesday, September 4

Breakfast & Dinner Included

This morning we board a boat for our **Rhine River Cruise** as it flows north towards Rotterdam and the North Sea. This is the path the Hottenstein immigrants took to come to the New World. We will cruise the most scenic portion of the Rhine, where castles look down upon the vineyards covering the hills on both sides of the Rhine, before turning Northeast to spend an evening with the Hottensteiners in the town of Langenholzen. This is the home of the **"Hottenstein"**, a special rock dating back to the 380AD when Reibolt von Hottenstein held court on the Hottenstein under a large chestnut tree. Is this the beginning of the Hottenstein name? We will learn more from our new friends tonight.



Hottenstein

### Day 8, Thursday, September 5

Breakfast & Dinner Included



Or did the name come from the village of **Hottenstein** a little further West in what is now part of Wuppertal? We can still see the **Hottenstein Kirche, Hottenstein School and Hottenstein Bus Stop**. This town was named after a particular type of slate from this area, which was called Hottenstein. The buildings are still decorated beautifully on the sides with this special stone. After enjoying lunch, we travel to Cologne for the rest of the day.

### Day 9, Friday, September 6

Breakfast & Lunch Included



There is hardly another European capital that can boast contrasts as impressive as **Luxembourg**. The only Grand Duchy in the world, Luxembourg is a captivating contrast of large and small, old and new, valley and plateau, local and international. The upper part of the city - the traditional, historical area - is perched on a rocky plateau surrounded by river valleys. The Kirchberg Plateau on the other side of the Alzette valley, is the up-to-date contemporary headquarters of many European,

cultural and financial institutions. Since 1994, the powerful bastions of Luxembourg's former fortifications and the old city centre have been included on [UNESCO's World Heritage List](#). The mixture of languages defines the cosmopolitan nature of Luxembourg, a haven of human peace. After a tour of this international city, we cross the Moselle River to **Trier**, the oldest city in Germany, and the birth place of Constantine The Great, to discover 2000 years of history - from the baths of 2 AD to present day, 2018. It was a very early center of Christianity and a significant spiritual center during the entire Middle Ages.



### Day 10, Saturday, September 7

Breakfast Included

We fly out of Frankfurt this morning. As we return to our homes today, we are full of memories and new friendships with our new found friends and “relatives?”.