

Snohomish Reformation Tour

July 27 – August 05/10, 2026

Welcome to the European Reformation Heritage Tour! Over the next two weeks, we will journey through the heart of Europe, tracing the footsteps of reformers like Martin Luther, John Calvin, Huldrych Zwingli, and more. This tour will take us from the historical landmarks of Berlin to the theological centers in Wittenberg, Erfurt, Worms, and Geneva, culminating in the vibrant cities of London, Cambridge and Oxford and offering both profound educational moments and serene cultural immersion.

Expect moving memorials, majestic cathedrals, and insightful walking tours, all grounded in the deep and sometimes turbulent history of the Protestant Reformation. This is not just a historical journey but a spiritual and educational experience. Get ready to walk the cobblestone streets where history was made, reflect at memorials that speak of human resilience, and explore cities that still echo with the voices of reformers.

Day 1: Monday – July 27, 2026 – Depart Seattle

Day 2: Tuesday - July 28, 2026 – Berlin

Upon arrival at Berlin Airport, we'll meet our tour guide who will accompany throughout. Our once-in-a-lifetime journey through Europa will start in Berlin, unified Germany's capital city since 1990. Our city tour takes us to the Reichstag (Parliament), the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the refurbished city center and Gendarmenmarkt, Alexanderplatz, the famous boulevard "Unter den Linden," the Berlin Cathedral and the Hofand Domkirche of the Hohenzollern dynasty. Checkpoint Charlie was the sole crossing point between East and West Berlin for all members of the Allied forces, foreigners and officials of the GDR from 1961 to 1990. Today, this crossing point is marked by a replica of the original guard house and a sign that once marked the border crossing. The majestic Brandenburg Gate, nearby the German Parliament, became a symbol of the divided Germany after the construction of the Berlin Wall. Nearby, the Holocaust Memorial is a memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. The Book Burning Memorial (Bebelplatz's "Empty Library") is positioned where Nazi students burned over 20,000 books in 1933. A bronze plaque bears Heinrich Heine's chilling warning: "That was but a prelude; where they burn books, they will ultimately burn people as well". Overnight in Berlin. **D**

Day 3: Wednesday - July 29, 2026 – Wittenberg - Erfurt

Following breakfast the journey continues to Wittenberg which was from 1508 the main workplace of Martin Luther. We visit Luther Hall, the Augustinian monastery where Luther lived as a monk and later, in 1525, as owner with his wife and family (Luther Hall is the largest museum of Reformation history in the world), the Market Square and Town Hall; tour All Saints Church (Schlosskirche), famous site where Luther posted his 95 Theses on the Castle Church door sparking the beginning of the Reformation (it is here that Luther is buried alongside his fellow reformer, Philipp Melanchthon); tour St. Mary's Church, where Luther did the majority of his preaching. We also visit the Melanchthon House, the former residence of Philipp Melanchthon, a close companion of Martin Luther and one of the most German Reformers. Later today, we'll drive south to Erfurt for two overnights. **B, D**

Day 4: Thursday - July 30, 2026 – Erfurt

Today we tour Erfurt, the spiritual home of Martin Luther. It was here that Luther obtained a degree in 1502 and a doctorate in the faculty of philosophy in 1505 and where he took the decisive step to turn to theology and the monastic life when he was caught in a violent thunderstorm nearby and took a vow to become a monk. Our walking tour begins in the historical section of the city including St. Mary's Cathedral, where Luther was ordained as a priest, the Church of St. Severus, where Luther preached his sermons, the Augustinian Monastery with a permanent exhibit depicting Luther's life as a monk in Erfurt, the Collegium Maius — a historic university building now housing museum exhibits and medieval artifacts and St. Michael's Church — a fine example of Gothic architecture. **B, D**

Day 5: Friday - July 31, 2026 Eisenach – Worms

Eisenach: “Almost all of my relatives live in Eisenach, and I’m known to them there and...well-respected; no other city knows me better”, as Luther said. We explore his city on a walking tour and view St. George’s Church where St. Elisabeth was married and J.S. Bach baptized. We tour the Luther House where Luther lived as a student with the Cotta family from 1498-1501, and the Luther exhibition documenting his life and theologies. Here we have the chance to visit a school class, experience school in Luther’s day (subject to be confirmed). The next stop takes us to the magnificent Wartburg Castle to tour of the Palas (Great Hall), Art exhibition, the Elisabeth Hallway and the Luther Room where “Junker Jörg” (the Knight George) translated the New Testament into German. Option to ride the coach or walk along the Lutherweg (“Luther Way”), a leisurely hike takes us along the same path travelled by Luther from Eisenach to the Wartburg Castle.

After lunch on our own, we continue to Worms for overnight. **B, D**

Day 6: Saturday - August 01, 2026 Worms – Strasbourg

Worms is thought to be one of the oldest towns in Germany, where Luther was summoned in 1521 to appear before an Imperial Diet to justify his conduct. We visit the world’s largest Memorial to the Reformation and the Church of the Holy Trinity, which is believed to be the place where the decisive hearing took place. Visit St. Peter’s Cathedral, situated on the highest elevation of the inner city. The cathedral is one of the most exquisite examples of Romanesque architecture. The Cathedral was the scene of several milestones of European history. In 1048, Bruno of Egisheim-Dagsburg was elected pope Leo IX here and in 1521, Martin Luther was summoned by emperor Charles V to recant his teachings before the Diet of Worms, a historic assembly that was to change the history of Christianity. Behind the cathedral in the Heylshof Park marks a plaque on the ground the place where Luther made his brave declaration. Then onward to Strasbourg in France for overnight. **B**

Day 7: Sunday - August 02, 2026 Strasbourg – Zurich

Strasbourg is home of the European Parliament. The reformator Martin Bucer is related to the city and St. Thomas's Church, the principal Protestant Church since 1549. We tour the Cathedral of Strasbourg, the Astronomical clock and St. Thomas's Church during our walking tour. In the afternoon, we cross the next border for Zurich/ Switzerland for overnight. **B, D**

Day 8: Monday - August 03, 2026 – Zurich

On a walking tour through the Old Town, we tour Grossmunster Cathedral. It was here that Huldrych Zwingli began the Swiss Reformation. Fraumuenster Abbey amazes with its stunning stained-glass windows by Marc Chagall and St. Peter's Church boasts the largest clock face in Europe. In the afternoon, we head on to the Geneva, the stronghold of the Swiss Reformation, associated most closely with John Calvin and Huldrych Zwingli. Check-in to the hotel for two overnights. **B, D**

Day 9: Tuesday - August 04, 2026 – Geneva

We stroll through the Old City past St. Pierre Cathedral, Temple de l’Auditoire, Collège Calvin, Reformation Monument, a grand monument with statues of reformers like Calvin, Farel, Beza, and Knox. The Reformation Museum (Musée International de la Réforme) showcases the movement’s legacy through manuscripts, art, and multimedia including works by Luther and Bonhoeffer. **B, D**

Day 10 Wednesday- August 05, 2026 – Departure

We are transferred to Geneva airport for our flight home to Seattle, or to London for those doing the extension.

Post tour LONDON**Day 10: Wednesday- August 05, 2026 Geneva – London**

We are transferred to Geneva airport for our flight to London and say good-bye and thank you to our German driver and tour guide. Upon arrival in London, our English tour guide welcomes us. Our ride to the hotel includes a short and briefing orientation tour of the city center. Overnight in London for five nights. **B, D**

Day 11: Thursday - August 06, 2026 – London

This morning, we tour Westminster Abbey, coronation site and resting place of countless monarchs and luminaries. Then on to Buckingham Palace to visit the Changing of the Guard, a pageant of British tradition. Afternoon at leisure. **B**

Day 12: Friday - August 07, 2026 Cambridge

This morning, we drive to Cambridge to visit Kings College (Subject to availability. As a working college, may close at short notice.) Founded in 1441 by King Henry VI, Kings College is the oldest and grew into the largest college at the prestigious Cambridge University. Over the centuries the college educated some of the finest minds in literature, politics and economics, including novelist E.M Forster and economist John Maynard Keynes and a guided tour shows you where they lived, studied and were inspired. The highlight of Kings College is unarguably the late-gothic King's Chapel - an ornate masterwork of English craftsmanship. When gazing upwards at the breathtaking fan vault ceiling, beautiful stained-glass windows and famous baroque painter Ruben's Adoration of the Magi masterpiece, it's easy to see why it took over a century to build. Enjoy a walking tour of Cambridge. The university city of Cambridge is an attractive collection of grand college buildings and vast green urban parks. The students of the prestigious university buzz around the streets on bikes whilst tourists may take to the picturesque River Cam on the local gondola-like punts. Highlights include the beautiful gothic chapel of Kings College, and the Bridge of Sighs and ornate 16th century Great Gate of St John's College. During your tour of Cambridge, you will also hear all about the history of the university, famous former students like Darwin, Newton and Hawking, and the practical aspects of applying and studying there. Afterwards, return to London or shorten time in Cambridge and visit Ely Cathedral. **B, D**

Day 13: Saturday - August 08, 2026 – London

Following breakfast, the London tour continues with a visit to Tower Bridge and the Tower of London, where the Crown Jewels are on display and played a prominent role in English history. Our guided tour concludes with a visit to the British Museum. The museum is dedicated to human history, art and culture and is the largest one in the world.

Afternoon at leisure. **B**

Day 14: Sunday - August 09, 2026 Oxford

Today, we will visit Oxford. The city of Oxford grew up around the University of Oxford, one of the world's oldest and most prestigious seats of learning. The importance and wealth of the university is projected through the scale and grandeur of the college buildings throughout the city. Pass some of the oldest colleges such as the 13th Exeter College, the impressive Bodleian Library and Baliol College, which is something of an assembly line for British Prime Ministers. Other Oxford highlights include Martyrs' Memorial and the Bridge of Sighs which connect two parts of Herford College. Enjoy a walking tour of Oxford. First, visit University Church of St Mary the Virgin. The University Church has a rich and intriguing history. From its beginnings over a thousand years ago, St Mary's has witnessed the foundation of the University of Oxford and some of the most significant events in English history. Visit Christ Church College (Subject to availability). Christ Church College is the largest college in one of the most prestigious universities in the world. With over 500 years of history and an introduction into modern popular culture, Oxford University's Christ Church College means different things to different people. For some it is indelibly linked to some of the great historical figures in the spheres of religion, philosophy and politics including John Wesley, Robert Peel, William Gladstone and no less than 13 British Prime Ministers. Return to London. **B, D.**

Day 15: Monday - August 10, 2026 – Departure

Transfer to the airport for our flights home to Seattle. **B**