



2008 Lucerne International Choral Festival

Extension #5 – Festival plus France and Germany (8 nights / 10 days)

Monday June 30, 2008

Departure from the USA via scheduled airline service to Zürich, Switzerland. Enjoy full meal/beverage service and in-flight entertainment during this trans-Atlantic flight.

Tuesday July 1 Zürich / Lucerne

Zürich airport arrival assistance. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, then board the awaiting motorcoaches. Stop en route to visit Zürich's Old Town. Once in Lucerne, enjoy a panoramic tour of the city's highlights before arriving at your hotel. Evening Registration and Welcome Dinner with entertainment.



Lucerne (Lucerne) is the capital of its canton and considered one of the most beautiful cities in Switzerland. The lake resort city sprawls at the foot of Lake Lucerne in the cradle of historic Switzerland. The city's medieval heritage is evident in the fortifying walls and towers, the old churches and houses and the unusual covered bridges that span the Reuss.



Wednesday July 2 Lucerne

A walking tour of this picturebook-like town includes the Covered Wooden Bridge, Mussegge Towers, the Lion Monument and the old town. There is also time available for shopping for bargains including Swiss watches, lace, wood carvings and chocolate. *Afternoon rehearsal.* Dinner at the hotel. *Evening rehearsal.*

Thursday July 3 Lucerne

Today enjoy the scenery of a morning cruise on Lake Lucerne that will end at Alpnachstad. From there travel on the cog-railroad, which runs up through Alpine meadows (orchards) and forests to the passing station at Ämsigen and then continues over the rock-strewn Mattalp and up the steep rock face, through four tunnels, to the upper station on Pilatus-Kulm. From here it is a 6-10 minute climb to the summit of the Esel, the central peak of Pilatus, from which there are magnificent views of the Alps, from Säntis to the Blümlisalp, Lakes Lucerne and Zug, and the Swiss uplands. From the summit, take a cable car down to the Kriens station to meet your motorcoach for return to Lucerne. *Afternoon rehearsal.* Dinner. *Evening rehearsal.*



Friday July 4 Lucerne

Mid-morning dress rehearsal with orchestra and soloists in the Kultur und Kongresszentrum Luzern (Lucerne Cultural and Convention Center). Afternoon at leisure. Motorcoach and Tour Manager are at the group's disposal. There is time available for additional sightseeing, shopping, or museum visits. Dinner on own. *Evening Finale Festival Concert in the Concert Hall of the Lucerne Cultural and Convention Center.*

Saturday July 5 Lucerne / Strasbourg, France

Transfer to Strasbourg via the Black Forest.



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Strasbourg holds a unique position in both French and German history. One of the earliest documents in both languages is the Strasbourg Oaths sworn by two of the sons of Louis the Pious (himself the son of Charlemagne). Johann Gutenberg was an early citizen of Strasbourg experimenting with movable type. The French National Anthem is also associated with this city. Today Strasbourg is the headquarters of both the multinational Council of Europe and the European Parliament.



Sunday July 6 Strasbourg



This morning is devoted to exploring Strasbourg. La Petite France is the name given to the well-preserved and pedestrianized medieval quarter in the southwest section of the city. Its high gabled gingerbread houses on narrow streets and canals dates from the 16th and 17th centuries when millers, tanners and fishermen thronged the area. Visit the Notre Dame Cathedral (and Museum) which recalls the city's early ecclesiastical. Enjoy an afternoon one-hour cruise on the canals. ***Optional evening concert in Strasbourg as part of the 2008 American Celebration of Music in France.***

Monday July 7 Strasbourg / Heidelberg, Germany

Transfer to Heidelberg. A half-day tour of Germany's oldest university town includes the Schloß (castle) offering a splendid view of the city beneath. In the castle, see the Great Barrel, the Courtyard and the Pharmaceutical Museum. Also see the old university itself, the Cathedral of the Holy Ghost, the Old Bridge and the Jesuit Church. This is an enchanting city in which to stroll!

The jewel of the Neckar River is Heidelberg, with town, castle and wooded hills rising above the river. A close runner-up to the castle is Germany's oldest university forever immortalized in The Student Prince. It is as delightful as any operetta with its student inns, student prison and the narrow streets of the old town.



Tuesday July 8 Heidelberg

Half-day excursion for a Rhine River Cruise traveling from Rudesheim to St. Goar. The Rhine River is one of the most important waterways in Germany and is linked by canals to other major rivers in Western Europe. See high hills stretching away from the river, topped with romantic and legendary castles, churches, vineyards, colorful villages and charming, old world towns surrounded by fortified walls, towers and gates. ***Optional evening concert in Heidelberg as part of the 2008 American Celebration of Music in Germany.***



Wednesday July 9 Depart for home

Transfer to Frankfurt's International airport for return flights to the USA. Arrive home in the same day.

