



Reformation Tour

Switzerland-France-Germany

In the footprints of Jean Calvin, and Ulrich Zwingli

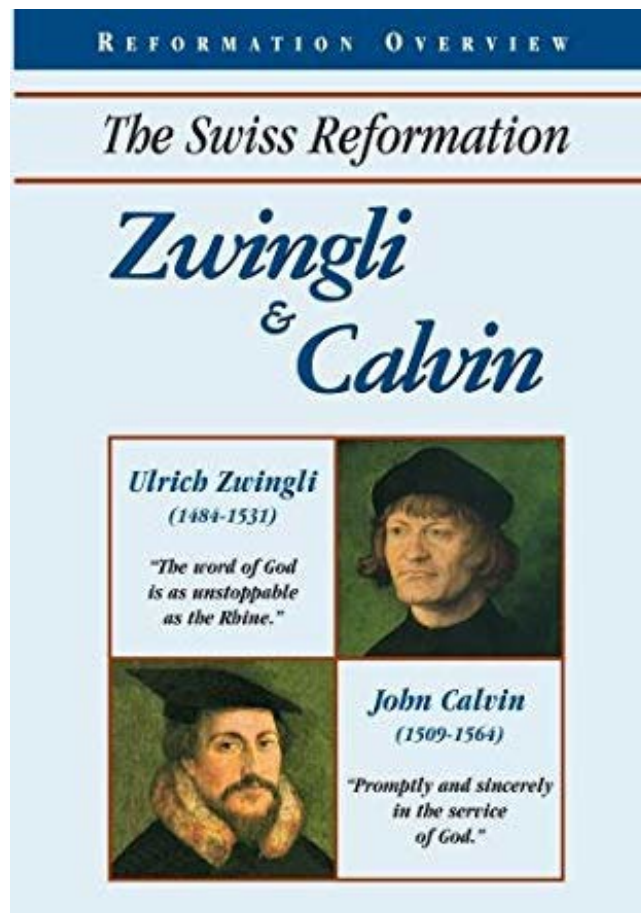
Lessons in Courage, Conflict and Cowardice

led by

Dr. Erwin & Rebecca Lutzer

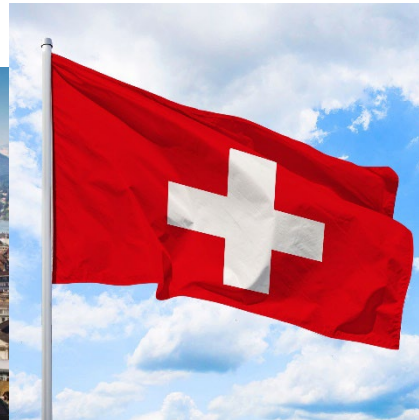
with Gregg Quiggle

September 6 until September 16, 2025



Day 0 September 05th, 2025

Your flight leaves the U.S. today.



Day 1 September 06th, 2025

Arrival at Zurich Airport, International Terminal. Take the hotel shuttle to the hotel. In the lobby of the hotel meet your guides for a briefing at 6.00 p.m. followed by a welcome dinner. Overnight in Zurich. (D)

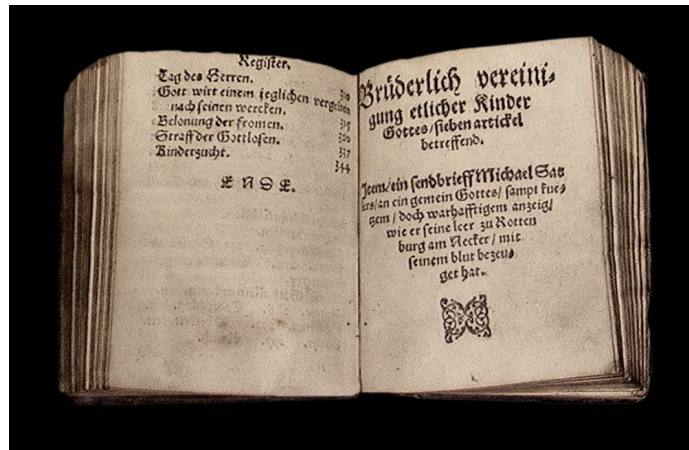
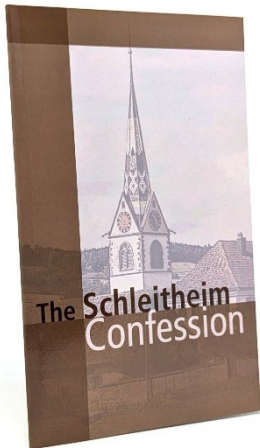
Day 2 September 07th, 2025



Today we begin our journey, learning about the reformation in Switzerland. The leading person in the Zurich Area was Ulrich Zwingli. Standing at the statue of Ulrich Zwingli in the shade of the cathedral „Grossmuenster“ we will tell you about the Reformer and the beginning of the Reformation in Switzerland. Enter the cathedral where Zwingli preached, and learn about the uniqueness of the Swiss Reformation. Walk past the churches „Wasserkirche“ and „Fraumuenster“ with the famous Chagall Windows.

Also we visit the exact place along the Limmat river by Limmat Club Zurich where Felix Manse and other anabaptists were drowned. Here we will learn about the anabaptist movement and the price they paid for their convictions. We will discuss the relationship of the church and the state and relate it to our times.

If there is time, we will end our morning to concentrate on an even more important subject – Swiss Chocolate. „Lindt and Spruengli“ – one of Switzerland oldest companies run a chocolate store and cafe around the corner – a great place for lunch.



In the afternoon we drive into the countryside to visit the village of Schleitheim, where the most famous Anabaptist council on 24 February 1527 drew up the *Schleitheim Confession*, the first known Anabaptist confession. We will see the original document in the local museum.



Afterwards we take you to a European Highlight – the thundering Rhine Falls.

Return to Zurich for another night at our tour hotel. (B)

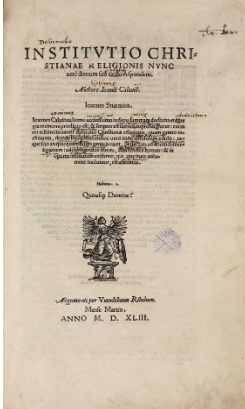
Day 3 September 08th, 2025



We take you through green Lower Switzerland to the German bank of Europe’s biggest water reservoir named Lake Constance. Our destination is the city of Constance where we will tell you about the “early Reformer” Jan Hus from Czechoslovakia who in the year 1415 was called before the Council of Constance and as he did not revoke his theses, condemned and burned outside the gates of Constance on July 6, 1415. In the afternoon enjoy a walk in the medieval part of town. Return to Zurich in late afternoon.

Overnight at tour hotel in Zurich. (B)

Day 4 September 09th, 2025



We leave Zurich and head for the beautiful Mountain Lake Lucerne.

But first we reach another highlight - the Einsiedeln Abbey 20 miles from Lucerne. It is a Benedictine abbey rich in tradition, home to around forty monks, the most important pilgrimage site in Switzerland and a place of culture, education and encounters for over a thousand years. Provides and excellent glimpse into the Catholic world of the Reformation. Zwingli in Einsiedeln. We will tell you about Zwingli’s relationship with this Abby, and how it helped him progress in the knowledge of the scriptures.





Late afternoon proceed to Lucerne beautifully located at the foot of Mount Pilatus and by the banks of a lake and a river. Admire the beautiful lakeside scenery during a 1,5 hour cruise and enjoy a rich variety of plates of typical Swiss delicatessen.

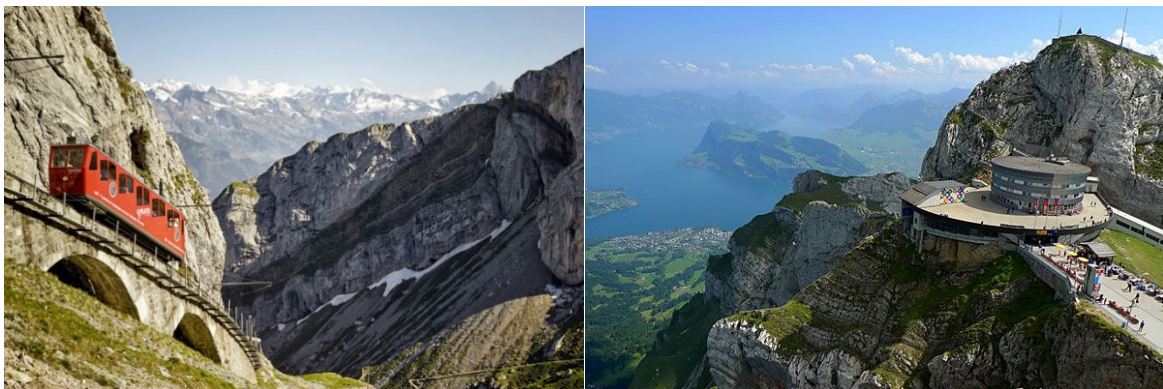
Overnight in Lucerne. (B, D)

Day 5 **September 10th, 2025**

Lucerne features beautifully religious frescoes on the ceilings of the Jesuit Church which we will show you. Later admire the Lion Statue and listen to your tour director telling how it is connected with the French Revolution.

If you want a unique Alpine experience, come with us on top of ***Pilatus Mountain***.

We have planned this as an ***optional half a day excursion for CHF 95.00*** (Please make your booking during the welcome dinner on the first night of the tour in Zurich.)



You will discover that “Pilatus” is a very special mountain. To go up we take a very special train: commissioned in 1889, a gradient of up to 48 percent, about 30 minutes travel time: that is the steepest cogwheel railway in the world in figures. Foot by foot it scales the way to the peak, passing alpine meadows and striking rock formations. To go down we glide in gondolas over farms and villages. A mountain experiences at its best!

If you don't want to join our optional tour - the afternoon is free for your own activities – enjoy Lucerne or go shopping. Overnight in Lucerne. (B)

Day 6 **September 11th, 2025**

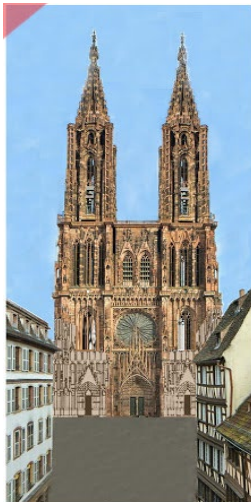


Today's road takes us to Germany into the Black Forest Area. We stop in the city of Freiburg, well known for one of the country's biggest cathedrals. Stroll over the market which stretches around the cathedral and then follow us deeper into the Black Forest.

Across the River Rhine we will reach the city of Strasbourg, where we will stay for 2 nights. Overnight in Strasbourg (B, D)

Day 7 **September 12th, 2025**

The cathedral is breathtaking – we will walk in Calvin's steps in Strasbourg by starting in front of the famous Cathedral. This is where the Protestant Reformation began in France when Matthew Zell started preaching Luther's ideas beginning in 1521. The Cathedral was Protestant from 1529 to 1681, when Strasbourg became French (except for the period called Interim, 1549-61).



John Calvin left Geneva for Strasbourg in 1538, when Martin Bucer asked him to take charge of the small community of French-speaking Protestants; he was then 39 years old. The three years spent in this town were probably the happiest of his life: a happy marriage, productive activity, practical training in the pastoral ministry... He set up a liturgical model, prepared the first French psalter, a collection of psalms, and became known world-wide. In 1541 he was called back to Geneva, where he stayed the rest of his life

We will see St. Nicholas Church where Calvin preached beginning September 8, 1538.

The next stop is just a bit further on at the number 2 rue du Bouclier, in front the presbytery of the Bouclier church. Next we see the house where Calvin lived. This is where he worked

on his classes, sermons, publications and on the second Latin edition of his Institutes of the Christian Religion. In the same courtyard we will discover the Reformed Bouclier Church.

Carry on your tour by walking towards the place Kléber, then through the narrow street between the rue des Grandes Arcades and the place Kleber Next we visit the Temple-Neuf church, a former Dominicans' church where Calvin preached.

Our tour ends right next to the Temple Neuf, at the Gymnase Jean Sturm. Jean Sturm asked Calvin to be its first Law and Theology teacher. Three times a week Calvin taught Biblical Exegesis in Latin on the book of Romans.



In the afternoon and evening free time to discover this exciting French/German medieval town on your own. Overnight in Strasbourg.(B)

Day 8 September 13th, 2025



Today our road takes us from France back to Switzerland. For individual lunch we stop at a highway restaurant. In the afternoon we arrive in the famous Lauterbrunnen Valley – see villages and pastures between steep mountains from which dozens of waterfalls are gushing down.

We will take you to a unique place – 10 glacier waterfalls within a mountain transport 10.000 liters of water per second from the melting glaciers above. „Indoor waterfalls“ – really unique.



In late afternoon we end a day rich with mountain impressions in the town of Grindelwald. Our hotel is at the foot of the famous Eiger Mountain Northface. Dinner at your hotel.

Overnight in Grindelwald (B, D)

Day 9 **September 14th, 2025**

Today we will be on our way to Gruyeres and Geneva. We will also visit Castle Trachselwald, towering on a rock above miles of pastures and forests, where Anabaptists were imprisoned for their faith in the 16th and 17th century.

Climb the castle tower and view the jail cells where Anabaptists were held visit an exhibition which offers insight into the lives and beliefs of Anabaptists from the Emmental Valley who came into conflict with church and state leaders because of their religious convictions.



From Castle Trachselwald towards Lake Geneva. Around noon we reach the area of Gruyere.



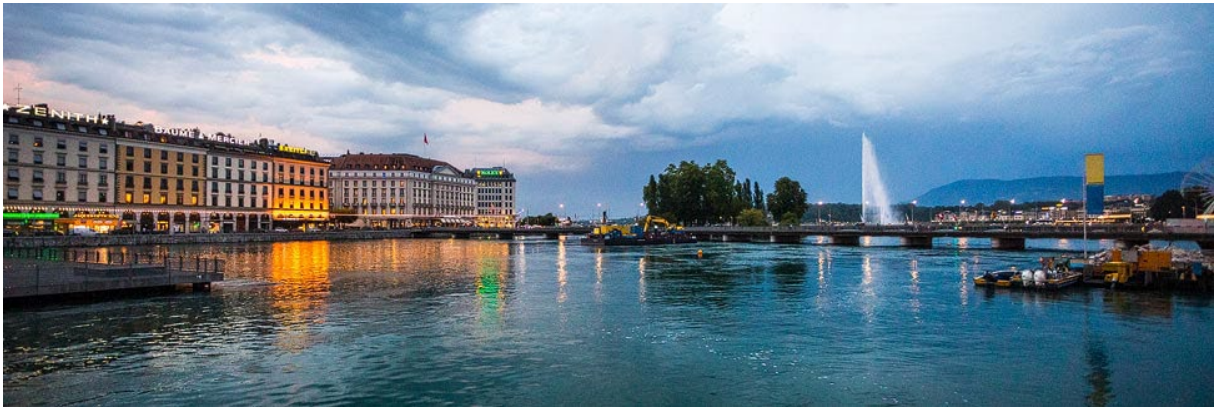
This is dairy country, where the famous Gruyere cheese is made. We pass dozens of dairy farms, hundreds of cows until we reach the medieval village of Gruyere, where we stop for an included traditional Swiss lunch. Walk around in a village that seems to have appeared straight out of the Middle Ages, an architectural gem that is worth seeing.

Later on to Geneva – partly by coach and cruise on the lake. Overnight in Geneva (B,L)



Day 10

September 15th, 2025



Let us show you the city of John Calvin – we see the mighty cathedral with the famous “Calvin Chair” a high-backed wooden chair that is given prominence. Yes, this rather plain chair was used by none other than John Calvin, the city’s Protestant preacher who led Geneva’s religious reformation. We will tell you more about this firebrand who was instrumental in shaping the course of his city’s history and is considered a great man by some, and a tyrannical religious zealot by others.

He arrived in Geneva during the summer of 1536. He happened to stop there on his way to the safe-haven of Fribourg after fleeing catholic France, fearful that his reformist ideas would have him branded a heretic.

He planned to stay in Geneva for only one night but was persuaded by William Farel, a fellow Frenchman in exile, who had plans to reform the church there but had so far failed to sow the seeds of Protestantism.



We will also come across the Scottish Reformer John Knox today (many of you will remember our Scotland Tour) who stayed in Geneva several times. He preached in the Calvin Auditory in the 1550s - a chapel right next to the cathedral - which played an

important role in the reformation. Later, Knox returned to Scotland bringing the reformed faith with him.



Today's highlight is the visit of the „Reformation Wall“

During the Reformation, Geneva was the center of Calvinism, and its history and heritage since the sixteenth century has been closely linked to that of Protestantism. Due to the close connections to that theology, the individuals most prominently depicted on the Reformation Wall were Calvinists; nonetheless, key figures in other theologies like Martin Luther are also included.

We will have an American pastor with his own congregation in Geneva to lecture about this unique monument. Before going back to our hotel we will do a photo stop at the European Headquarters of the United Nations and also the International Red Cross.

Tonight at our hotel we celebrate having had a great time in Germany, France and Switzerland with a Swiss Farewell Buffet Dinner (B, D)

Day 11 September 16th, 2025

The hotel shuttle brings you to Geneva Airport. Your flights home will arrive in the U.S. the same day. (B)

****** End of the Tour******



Included features:

- 11 days coach tour from Zurich to Geneva
- Services of a tour director throughout the tour
- Additional service of a van accompanying the tour
- Free use of hotel shuttle bus from Airport Zurich to hotel in Zurich
- Guided tour of downtown Zurich
- Visit of the Anabaptist Museum in Schleithem
- Visit of the famous Rhinefalls
- Daytour to Constance by Lake Constance
- Visits of places related to Reformer Jan Hus
- Visit of Lion Monument in Lucerne
- Visit of the Jesuit Church in Lucerne
- Road & Bridge tolls in Switzerland & France
- On board sales of mineral water
- 10 nights at 4**** hotels in Switzerland & France
- All rooms with bath/and or shower en suite
- 1 travel book per traveller
- 10 buffet breakfasts
- 1 Welcome Dinner in Zurich
- 1 dinner in Strasbourg
- 1 dinner in Grindelwald
- 1 cruise dinner in Luzern
- 1 Farewell Dinner in Geneva
- Lunch at Gruyere
- Local guide for Calvin city tour of Strasbourg
- Admission Cathedral Zurich
- Admission Cathedral Strasbourg



Included features:

- Guided tour of Einsiedeln Monastery
- Visit of Trachselwald Castle with the dungeons
- Trümmelbach Waterfalls guided inside visit
- Admission to Calvins Cathedral Geneva
- Local specialist guide to places related to Calvin in Geneva
- Cruise on Lake Geneva
- Visit of Reformers Wall in Geneva
- Outside visit United Nations Headquarter Geneva
- Airport hotel shuttle in Geneva for flights home

tour price USD 4.695.00

Single room surcharge USD 850.00

******All services subject to change******