

LAKES AND MOUNTAINS Bless the Lord!

A Glastonbury Pilgrimage to Northern Italy and Switzerland with Fr. Tim Joyce OSB

May 10 - 22, 2020

DAY 1 May 10: Depart USA for overnight flight to Milan, Italy

DAY 2 May 11: Arrive in Milan, after clearing customs transfer to **Lake Maggiore in Stresa**. Check-in and rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Stresa.

DAY 3 May 12: Lake Maggiore - This morning we will take a short boat ride to the **BORROMEE ISLANDS** and visit the beautiful royal palace and its gardens. Then go to the fisherman island for time for lunch on your own. In the afternoon go by private boat to the monastery of **Santa Caterina del Sassoto** to celebrate Mass. Return to the hotel in Stresa for dinner and overnight.

DAY 4 May 13: Milan - Today we dedicate our day to the city of **Milan**. Guided tour of the city including the beautiful **DUOMO** with possibility of celebrating Mass here, visit of the famous **LAST SUPPER** by Leonardo da Vinci. Little free time for lunch and exploring. Return to Stresa for dinner and overnight.

DAY 5 May 14: Lake Como - Today we go to lake Como for a leisure day. We will do the navigation of beautiful **lake Como** and stop in the famous little town of **Bellagio**. Time on your own to explore, have lunch and some shopping. Return to the hotel in Stresa for our last dinner and overnight in Italy.

DAY 6 May 15: Switzerland - Today we leave Italy and we go to **Switzerland**. Long beautiful traveling day with stop for lunch, on your own. We arrive in Geroldswil at Hotel Geroldswil. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight.

DAY 7 May 16: Day excursion by bus to **Einsiedeln** and **Stoos** mountain. Einsiedeln monastery is the founder of St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana and is the most important place of pilgrimage dedicated to the Virgin Mary in Switzerland. The high valley of Einsiedeln located in the heart of Central Switzerland is characterised by moors and Lake Sihl, the biggest reservoir in Switzerland in terms of area. Imposing centre of Einsiedeln and destination for countless pilgrims is the baroque monastery dating from the 18th century. The Benedictine monastery has a history of just over one thousand years. Since the Middle Ages Einsiedeln with its Black Madonna has been one of the most important places of pilgrimage in Europe. The Jakobsweg (St. James Path) also runs through the Einsiedeln area. Afternoon visit of Mt Stoos is now even more spectacular. The new funicular climbs at a gradient of up to 110%. Lunch in the restaurant on Fronalpstock 3-course menu. Dinner and overnight in Hotel Geroldswil.

DAY 8 May 17: Day excursion to **Stein** and **Rhine falls** In the morning we leave Zurich and drive to the medieval village of Stein on the Rhine river. Walk through the narrow streets and see the picturesque frescoed adorned houses. See the enchanting gilt and wrought iron trade signs at the shops, their pictorial devices dating from the time when few people could read. Continue along the Rhine river to Schaffhausen for a stop at the Rhinefalls, Europe's largest waterfalls before returning to Zurich. In the afternoon enjoy a guided city tour in Zürich. We have included the lunch at Rhinefall Overnight and dinner in Geroldswil at Hotel Geroldswil.

DAY 9 May 18: Day excursion to **Disentis Monastery** and **Wine tasting**. Founded around the year 720 as an hermitage, Disentis Monastery was often the site of hard-fought battles - due to its location at the foot of the Lukmanier Pass. The foundation walls of two churches from the 8th century are preserved to this day. The monastery school was first mentioned in the annals of 1285, the baroque monastery complex was built between 1683 and 1704. The museum documents the history of the monastery as well as sacred art and Christian tradition. The Benedictine monks welcome visitors to hourly prayers and at the Celebration of the Eucharist. On the way back to Zurich we will visit the vineyard in the region of Chur for a tasting of the local wine Overnight and dinner in Geroldswil at Hotel Geroldswil.

DAY 10 May 19. Chocolate factory and St. Gallen Zurich. - From Zurich we drive via Winterthur to Flawil to visit the Schoggiland Maestrani Swiss chocolate factory. You will discover the secrets of the art of Swiss chocolate. After the visit we continue to St. Gallen. After a short city tour admiring the famous Abbey, we enjoy time at leisure. The abbey district is UNESCO world heritage sight and attracts a lot of people from all over the world. Return to Zurich late afternoon. Overnight and dinner in Geroldswil at Hotel Geroldswil.

DAY 11 May 20: Day excursion to **Mt Rigi** and **Lucerne** Zurich. Leave Zurich along the scenic route via Sihlthal and lake Zoug to central Switzerland and Weggis, a charming resort on the lake. Board the cable car for Mt. Rigi-Kaltbad (4'750 ft) for time at leisure. Enjoy the spectacular alpine panorama view. Descend by rack-railway, Europe's first mountain railway built in 1871, to Vitznau. Drive along the lakeshore to Lucerne. Walking sightseeing tour of Lucerne, including the Old Town with its quaint streets and squares, busy market places and decorated houses. Walk across the wooden Chapel Bridge with its unique historical paintings. See the Old Town Hall, the Jesuit church and the Lion Monument. Time at leisure. Return to Zurich late afternoon. Overnight and dinner at Hotel Geroldswil.

DAY 12 MAY 21: Excursion to **Engelberg The "mountain of angels"**. Engelbert is the founder of Conception Abbey in Missouri whose lineage includes Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham. Both of these monasteries, along with St. Meinrad Archabbey, are part of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation. The mountain of Angels, as it was named in 1120 by the founders of the imposing Benedictine monastery, Engelberg is located in the heart of Central Switzerland. You can see the church with the biggest organ in Switzerland and walk through the picturesque village. Possibility of small group guided tour through the monastery duration approx. 1 hr per group. Group has to be divided into 15 pax each group, pending confirmation. After the visit of the monastery we have a guided visit at the cheese factory with a guided tour followed by a cheese tasting with cheese, bread and small warm cheesecakes, white wine, mineral water Overnight and dinner at Hotel Geroldswil.

DAY 13 May 22: After breakfast free time before departing for our afternoon flight home.

NOTE: While no changes are anticipated, there may be occasions when certain alterations become necessary to this itinerary due to pending schedule confirmations, and/or, due to changes/closures beyond our control.

Mass times and extra tours pending final confirmation.

Your arrangements made by G.A.I.A. (Genuinely Authentic Italian Adventures.)

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Travel insurance is highly recommended. You may want to check with your insurance agent, visit a local AAA or view the options Travel Guard has to offer at catholicfaithjourneys.com. We do not endorse or recommend any particular insurance agent/company.



TOTAL COST: \$4,749.00 per person, *Cash/Ck* based on **31** participants & double occupancy.

Credit card: 4,938.00 per person, double occupancy

Included

Round trip air from Boston/Milan & Zurich / Boston.

11 Nights hotels.

11 Breakfasts / 3 lunches / 11 Dinners.

Dinners include one wine or beer.

1 Cheese tasting/1 Chocolate tasting / and 1 wine tasting.

English speaking tour escort/guide.

Private motor coach throughout.

Transfers to/from international airports.

Entrance fees as noted in itinerary.

Private Mass arrangements.

(Locations noted pending confirmation)

Taxes and fuel surcharge

(subject to increase 30 days

prior to departure)

Not Included

Optional Travel insurance

(strongly recommended)

Meals and Beverages other than those

listed in in the "Included" section above.

All tips to tour escort, guides and drivers.

Items of personal nature.

Baggage fees imposed by airlines.

Any items not specifically mentioned in itinerary & included section.

Very Limited Single rooms add:

\$ 750.00 cash / check

\$ 780.00 credit Card.

For more information contact:

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