

SUMMER 2017

# GREAT CONTROVERSY TOUR



*Arch of Titus, Rome*

RETRACE THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE IN EUROPE FROM ITS ROOTS IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY, THROUGH THE DARK AGES, TO THE REFORMATION



*Place of Huss' Death, Konstanz*

## Tour Summary

- **Tour Length:** 14 days
- **Tour Dates:** May 12-25, 2017
- **Objective:** To see prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive!
- **Tour Hosts:** Dr. P. Gerard Damsteegt, Specialist in Adventist Studies and Church History, tour guide; Laurel Damsteegt, tour coordinator
- **Price:** \$2620 Deposit of \$500 to hold place on tour. Balance of payment due December 30, 2016.
- **Single room Surcharge:** \$600
- **Costs Include:**
  - Hotels (double occupancy)
  - Two vegetarian meals a day: a buffet breakfast and a dinner
  - Entrance fees to museums and sites
  - Air-conditioned deluxe coach
  - Great Controversy Revisited* study guide
  - Use of audio receiver and earphones to help hear tour guide better
- **For more information:** email: [gctours@mac.com](mailto:gctours@mac.com) or call 269-815-8624.



*The Colosseum, Rome*

# What others say...

## An Administrator

• “Attending the Great Controversy Tour was a high point in my ministry. I am so thankful I went. The question I had to ask myself at the close of the trip was, ‘Could I stand fast and true like the reformers did?’ In the cave where 150 Waldensian believers were smoked to death, I recommitted myself to the Lord and to ministry. I’m so thankful for the opportunity to have attended this trip.”  
John Loor, Jr., Executive Secretary, North Pacific Union Conference.

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## PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE HAVE LOVED GOING ON THE GREAT CONTROVERSY TOUR.

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## A Busy Doctor

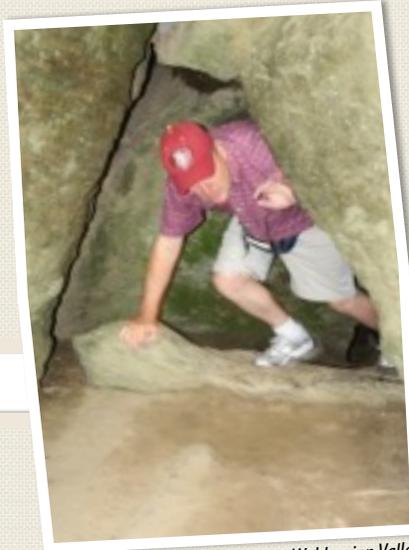
• “This tour was like a spiritual pilgrimage for me a highlight of everything I’ve ever done. I was very blessed in every way, and motivated to continue to study the Reformation and give presentations to both SDAs and non-SDAs. It is a tour for the serious student of church history. The more one studies ahead of time, the more you will be able to take advantage of the trip.” Ron Fleck, M.D., Washington.

## A Pastor

“This tour is a unique opportunity to learn church history in a way consistent with Seventh-day Adventist fundamentals. I wish many more Seventh-day Adventists could attend and get a clearer vision of the price of our faith and the truth we hold.” Mark Duarte, Pastor, Hawaii.

## A Director

“Amazing, wonderful, life-changing. Every SDA should take this, starting with the administrators, pastors and teachers! My third GC Tour and I would go again in a heartbeat. So much to learn, re-learn.” Sue Patzer, North Pacific Union Conference.



*Entrance to Cave, Waldensian Valleys*



*Martin Luther Statue, Speyer*



*Tomb of Napoleon, Paris*

## ITALY

EXPERIENCE BEGINNINGS IN ROME, THEN TRAVEL THROUGH TUSCANY TO THE HIDING PLACES OF THE PERSECUTED WALDENSES.

## SWITZERLAND

SWITZERLAND PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE REFORMATION. THE ZWINGLIANS AND ANABAPTISTS FOUND THEIR ROOTS IN ZURICH.

## GERMANY

MARTIN LUTHER’S REFORMATION SPREAD EVERYWHERE WITH THE NEW PRINTING PRESSES. WORMS WAS WHERE LUTHER MADE HIS STAND ON THE WORD OF GOD.

## FRANCE

PARIS WAS THE SITE OF BOTH THE FRENCH REFORMATION AND REVOLUTION ENDING WITH NAPOLEON GIVING A DEADLY WOUND TO THE PAPACY IN 1798.

# Tour Itinerary



Reformation Wall, Geneva



St. Peter's, Rome

**Day 1 (Friday, May 12): Arrival in Rome**  
Arrival at Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci airport (FCO). Transfer to hotel and prepare for Sabbath.  
Welcome dinner at the hotel at 7:15 p.m.

## Day 2 (Sabbath, May 13): Rome

*Focus: The Early Christian Persecutions*  
Buffet Breakfast.

Sabbath School and Worship.  
Sabbath lunch at the hotel at 1:15 p.m.  
Afternoon: The Martyr Trail. See sites connected to the first century martyrs: Basilica of St. Peter in Chains; Site of Nero's House, Basilica of San Clemente, and Circus Maximus.  
Dinner at the hotel at 7:15 p.m.  
Sundown Vespers

## Day 3 (Sunday, May 14): Rome

*Focus: Rome vs. Christianity!*

Buffet Breakfast.  
Morning: Visit Colosseum, Arches of Constantine and Titus, Roman Forum, Mamertine Prison, and, Capitoline Hill.  
Free time: Lunch  
Afternoon: Visit to Catacombs, Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Wall, burial site of Paul, and Chapel of St. John in Oil.  
Dinner at the hotel at 7:15 p.m.

## Day 4 (Monday, May 15): Rome

*Focus: Constantine and Rise of the Roman Catholic Church.*

Buffet Breakfast: 6:30. Departure: 7:15 a.m.  
Morning: Visit the Vatican Museum and Basilica of St. Peter.  
Free time: Lunch  
Afternoon: Visit Palace of Corsini, St. John Lateran (the cathedral of the popes), St. John's Baptistery, the Scala Sancta (Pilate's Staircase) and Church of Jesus.  
Dinner at the hotel at 7:15 p.m.

## Day 5 (Tuesday, May 16): Siena and Ravenna

*Focus: The Papal Captivity and the End of Pagan Rome.*

Buffet Breakfast: 6:30. Departure: 7:15 a.m.  
Morning: Visit to Museum of Inquisition.  
Lunch on own in Siena.  
Afternoon: Drive to Ravenna. Visit Mausoleum of Theodoric, King of Ostrogoths—the last evidence of the "three horns"—the Ostrogoths.  
Dinner at hotel at 7:00 p.m.

## Day 6 (Wednesday, May 17): Ravenna, Canossa, and Parma

*Focus: The Beginning of the 1260 Years; and Height of the Papacy*  
Breakfast Buffet: 6:30. Departure: 7:15 a.m.  
Morning visit to Ravenna: Basilica of San

Vitale with its famous mosaic of Emperor Justinian, the Arian Baptistery—one of the oldest Christian baptisteries, Dante's Tomb, Neo-Orthodox Baptistery. Archbishop's Museum.

Free time: 11:00-12:30 p.m.: Lunch  
Afternoon: Climb to Castle of Canossa where Pope Gregory VII revealed the supreme power of the papacy by humiliating Emperor Henry IV.  
Dinner at the hotel in Parma at 7:15 p.m.

## Day 7 (Thursday, May 18): Torre Pellice

*Focus: The True Church Living Under the Papacy*

Buffet Breakfast: 7:00 Departure: 7:45 a.m.  
Morning: Drive to Torre Pellice and Bobbio Pellice in the Italian Alps.  
Free time: 12:00-2:00 p.m. Lunch.  
Hike the Valley of the Invincibles (weather permitting), or visit the Waldensian Museum.  
Dinner at the hotel at 6:30 p.m.

## Day 8 (Friday, May 19):

*Focus: The Church of the Wilderness.*  
Buffet Breakfast: 7:30. Departure: 8:30 a.m.  
Morning: Visit the SDA Church, College of Barbes at Pra del Torno.  
Free time & lunch: 11:30-2:00 p.m.  
Afternoon: Visit historic Waldensian monuments: Chanforan, Beckwith School, and the Cave Church.  
Dinner at the hotel at 6:30 p.m.  
Sundown vespers.

## Day 9 (Sabbath, May 20): Sabbath in Waldensian Valleys

*Focus: The Dawn of the Reformation.*  
Buffet Breakfast: 8:00.  
Morning: Worship in a Waldensian Church, 10:00-12:00 a.m.  
Lunch at the hotel at 1:15 p.m.  
Afternoon: Free for personal time.  
Options are available for resting, reflecting, walking, or studying the Bible or Great Controversy.  
Dinner at the hotel at 6:30 p.m.  
Sundown vespers.

## Day 10 (Sunday, May 21): Geneva, Switzerland

*Focus: Calvin and the French Reformation.*  
Buffet Breakfast: 6:30. Departure: 7:15 a.m. Enjoy a scenic drive through the Alps and a tunnel under Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain.  
Free time & lunch: 11:30-1:00 p.m. in Chamonix, France, at the foot of Mont Blanc.  
Afternoon: Drive to Geneva—the city of Calvin and the center of the French

Reformation. Visit to St. Pierre Cathedral, Reformation Museum, Calvin's House, and the Reformation Monument.  
Dinner at hotel at 7:15 p.m.

## Day 11 (Monday, May 22): Kappel, and Zurich, Switzerland and Konstanz, Germany

*Focus: Zwingli, the Anabaptists, John Huss and Jerome of Prague*

Buffet Breakfast: 6:30. Departure: 7:15 a.m.  
Morning: Visit battlefield where Zwingli died.  
Visit Zwingli sites in Zurich.  
Free time & lunch: 12:15-1:45 p.m.  
Afternoon: Visit to Konstanz (Constance), Germany. A walk to visit places where John Huss and Jerome lodged, the church of their trial (Council of Constance), and the place where they were burnt at the stake.  
Dinner at the hotel at 7 p.m.

## Day 12 (Tuesday, May 23): Speyer and Worms, Germany

*Focus: Luther and the German Reformation.*  
Buffet Breakfast: 6:30. Departure: 7:15 a.m.  
Morning: Visit to Spires Memorial Church commemorating the name "Protestant."  
Free time & lunch: 12:00-1:30 p.m.  
Afternoon: Visit to Worms, The Luther room in the Museum, the Cathedral of St. Peter, the place Luther stood before the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, and the Reformation Monument  
Awards dinner at hotel at 7:15 p.m.

## Day 13 (Wednesday, May 24): Rheims and Paris, France

*Focus: The French Reformation and the Role of France in Prophecy.*  
Buffet Breakfast: 6:30. Departure: 7:15 a.m.  
Morning: Visit to Notre Dame in Rheims, where the baptism of Clovis, King of Franks ("the eldest son of the papacy") took place in 508 A.D.  
Lunch on the way.

Afternoon: A drive through Paris to see sites of French Reformation and French Revolution—such as the place of guillotine at Place de la Concorde, the Champs-Élysées, the Arc de Triomphe.  
Visit Napoleon's tomb, Notre Dame, center of the cult of the Goddess of Reason, guillotine at Place de la Greve.  
Free time & Dinner: 5:00-6:30 p.m. Boat trip through the heart of Paris.

## Day 14 (Thursday, May 25):

Breakfast buffet and hotel shuttle to Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) for flight home.

# Registration for Summer 2017 GC Tour

To hold your place, please complete this form now and send it with \$500 deposit (per person), passport copy and picture to: GC Tours, PO Box 171, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. Balance of payment due December 30, 2016.

## I. First Traveler Male Female

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Country & Number \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

2. I prefer:  Lacto-ovo vegetarian.  Vegan

3. Emergency contact:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Second Traveler (Spouse/Child) Male Female

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Country & Number \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

2. I prefer:  Lacto-ovo vegetarian.  Vegan

3. Emergency contact:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

4. If not rooming with a family member I wish to room with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please match me up with another single going on the trip (if no other single is available, I understand I am subject to the single room surcharge of \$600).

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to have a room all to myself (single room surcharge of \$600 applicable)

5. I understand that I should make my own flight arrangements to arrive at the Leonardo da Vinci Airport in Rome (FCO) by Friday, May 12, and depart from Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris, France (CDG) on or after Thursday, May 25, any time.

6. Here is a recent picture and a copy of the passport page with my picture for identification. (I understand I may also attach a digital pictures to an email and send it to [gctours@mac.com](mailto:gctours@mac.com)).

7. I am in excellent health. I understand that the Great Controversy Tour is a rigorous trip with considerable walking (up to 6 miles a day) with lots of standing while sightseeing. I also realize I will have to carry my own bags—sometimes up stairs. (Those over 75 years of age, or anyone suffering any chronic disease, must have medical clearance).

8. I understand that I will be responsible for the care of the audio transmitter and earphone issued me. In case of damage or loss of the transmitter I understand that I will pay for repair, or \$110 for a replacement.

9. I have read the terms and conditions of the tour. Please enroll me now. I understand that to hold my place, a deposit of \$500 is due now with the balance of \$2120 due December 30, 2016.

10. Signature First Traveler \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Second Traveler \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# GC Tour Information and Conditions

**Surface Transportation:** All transportation as described in the itinerary will be via air conditioned deluxe motor coach designed for highway travel.

**No Smoking/Alcohol Policy:** No smoking or use of alcoholic beverages is permitted on the coaches during daily touring.

**Hotel:** In general, three and four star hotels have been selected. The prices are based on double occupancy. For single occupancy there will be a surcharge.

**Meals:** A vegetarian buffet breakfast and vegetarian dinner are included in the tour price. On Sabbaths, lunch is included.

**Tour Price Does Not Include:** Airfare, passports, visas, or laundry. Drinks at meal time are not included. Each person must pay for all beverages, including bottled water.

**Baggage:** The bus has limited storage. Therefore each person is allowed a maximum of one suitcase with combined length, width and height of 62 inches (to not exceed 50 lbs). A hand bag and camera case are also allowed. If one plans to buy new luggage, consider getting luggage with wheels.

**Deposit and Payment:** The cost of the land tour is \$2620. To reserve a place on the tour, one needs to send a check or money-order of \$500. The tour price is subject to the exchange rate of the US dollar to the Euro. A significant decline of the value of the dollar may increase the tour price. However, there will be no price changes after full payment has been made. Checks/money orders should be made out to **GC Tours**, and mailed to GC Tours, PO Box 171, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. Credit card payments are possible but with a 3.5% service charge. Payment balance is due December 30, 2016.

**Extra Charge:** Those who damage or lose the audio receiver or headset must accept the responsibility for repair or replacement of the parts in question. Each receiver costs \$110.

**Agency Responsibility:** Christian Heritage Media acts as a management agent for the Great Controversy Tour. Christian Heritage Media cannot be held responsible for personal injury, loss or theft of passenger's baggage, for any delay or cancellation due to war, terrorism, natural disasters, strikes, financial collapse, disruption of advertised schedules or other causes beyond their control, or any change due to exchange rates. (Buy travel insurance!)

**Passports and Visas:** Participants are responsible for securing their passports and visas. The countries to be visited are: Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and France. Persons with US Passports do not need special visas for these countries. Persons of other nationalities should check with their consulates/embassies and obtain their own visas as necessary. Christian Heritage Media cannot be held responsible for those who fail to obtain proper travel documents. Christian Heritage Media cannot refund persons whose visas do not arrive in time for the tour.

**Final Travel Documents:** Travel documents, including a hotel list with addresses will be mailed to tour participants within the last two or three weeks prior to departure.

**Itinerary Change:** It is possible that the daily itinerary may be adapted by unforeseen circumstances. The tour hosts reserve the right to make itinerary adjustments deemed necessary for any reason.

**Travel Insurance:** We strongly recommend that each participant take out travel insurance to protect against financial loss if one has to cancel or interrupt the trip due to sudden illness or other unforeseen circumstances. You may like to check with your local travel agency for their insurance recommendations.

**Cancellation:** In the event that a tour participant who has paid cannot go on the tour because of unforeseen circumstances, the following will apply: All cancellations are subject to a \$50 administration fee, per person. Cancellations before December 30, 2016 will receive a full refund, less administration costs. Cancellations after December 30, 2016 forfeit the deposit; 45-30 days before the tour 50% of tour price; 29-0 days 100% of the tour price. It is therefore strongly recommended to have travel insurance to protect in case of any emergencies or valid, necessary cancellations. 100% of cancellation fees may be covered by the optional travel insurance protection plan (mentioned under the Travel Insurance section) provided premium has been paid and reasons for cancellation are insurable. Cancellations must be submitted in writing and dated. Depending on whether substitute persons can be found to fill the places or not, cancellation fees are sometimes waived by Christian Heritage Media. If the trip is cancelled due to political circumstances a full or partial refund, less administrative costs, will be issued.



2009 GC Tour Group, School of the Barbs

THE GREAT  
CONTROVERSY COMES  
ALIVE WHEN I REALIZE  
WHAT PEOPLE HAVE  
SUFFERED FOR US.



Notre Dame, Paris

## FAITH BUILDING

“I especially appreciated the places visited with the fulfillment of Bible prophecy! The Bible ‘came alive’ and was very meaningful! It was educational, a step back in history and most interesting. It was nice to meet and associate with many wonderful people! Very well organized! I could highly recommend taking this tour!” Reatha Ekvall, retired, tour guide at Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Michigan, Florida.

## GC Tours

PO Box 171  
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Important information  
you requested!

