

The 3rd Great German Pork Butcher Descendants' Reunion in Germany

Hohenlohe & the quaint Tauber River Valley

From 7th August till 11th August 2018

Monday 06.08.18: Arrival of some early birds

For all those who will arrive early, there will be an evening meal organised in the old village pub in Spielbach, not far from Rothenburg o/T. The pub still brews its own beer, the Golden Oxen Brew (not included in the Reunion price). Participation is optional. Please contact **ReiseService VOGT** if you wish to arrange to arrive a day early and stay at the hotel.

1st day, Tuesday 07.08.18: Arrival in Hohenlohe

Individual journeys to Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

Check-in at ***Hotel Rappen

- 6:00 pm Reception and initial meeting of the participants.
7:30 pm Dinner at the hotel.
9:00 pm Introduction – getting to know one another.

2nd day, Wednesday 08.08.18: Rothenburg – Altar of Mary at Creglingen – Pig fattening farm

Breakfast buffet at the hotel.

- 9:30 am **Guided Tour of Rothenburg ob der Tauber** (in English language for about 1½ hours). Rothenburg o/T is unique. You'll rarely find another German town in which the romantic atmosphere of the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance is preserved in a comparable way. Guests from all over the world visit this beauty spot and admire its attractions such as the well-preserved city wall, wall walks and towers. Gothic churches and magnificent medieval patrician houses give the place a peerless historic touch.

Subsequently participants will have some free time for private exploration, some tea or a snack.

- 1:30 pm Coach journey to Creglingen, about 20 km / 12½ miles.
2:00 pm View of 'The Church of Our Lord' with a famous altar of the wood carver Tilman Riemenschneider. The protestant church houses Mary's Altar as its main piece of art (made at the beginning of the 16th century). The altar, one of the most admired creations of Tilman Riemenschneider stands in the middle of the chapel and is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Explanations in English).
3:30 pm Short trip to Freudenbach, about 8 km / 5 miles.
4:00 pm Guided tour around the pig fattening farm of the Stodal family. As descendants of pork butchers, you may be interested in how pigs are bred nowadays. This farm raises about 1,500



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pigs, meeting the highly strict regulations of animal welfare and animal protection. It is one out of six of the most outstanding and award winning pig breeders within Germany.

- 5:30 pm Return journey to the hotel.
- 7:00 pm Dinner at the hotel, afterwards time at one's own disposal in Rothenburg.

3rd day, Thursday 09.08.18: Langenburg – Princely Estate Ludwigsruhe – Franken-Brewery

Breakfast buffet at the hotel.

- 9:00 am Coach trip to Langenburg, about 35 km / 22 miles.
- 10:00 am **Visit to the community archive** in the old primary school of **Langenburg**. *The archivist Mr. Andreas Volk will explain how the archive entries of our forebears were gathered, written down and administered. He will also show what data are kept there and how they can be accessed and used for genealogical research.*
- 12.00 am **Guided walk** through the cottage garden and herbarium **of the princely domaine Ludwigsruhe**. *The historic building – the ancient summer residence of the Count of Hohenlohe Langenburg – is a baroque hunting castle and 'maison de plaisance' of the 18th century. The present family purchased the castle with the surrounding estate in 1980. They restored the ruinous property with much affection and today the former castle is their home.*
- Lunch** is provided.
- 2:15 pm Coach trip to Riedbach, about 20 km / 12½ miles.
- 3:00 pm **Visit to the Franken Brewery at Riedbach** with explanations in English how the good Franconian beer is brewed on the premises. *Beer and Hohenlohe pretzels will be served. The senior owner of the brewery has a hobby: he's making the Good Old Riedbacher Single Malt Whisky. We have the chance to taste and buy this Hohenlohe speciality.*
- 5:00 pm Short coach trip to Windisch Bockenfeld, about 15 km / 9 miles
- 5:30 pm **Visit to ReiseService VOGT including an evening meal.** *This year our travel agent ReiseService Vogt celebrates its 30th jubilee. The family offers us a look behind the scenes of the agency that has specialised in agrarian tours all over the world. The owner was, and still is, a farmer on the adjacent land. There we will be served drinks and tasty sausage products that are close to the ones the German butcher ancestors also made in Britain.*
(A vegetarian meal is also available instead).

Afterwards return to the hotel.



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4th day, Friday 10.08.18: Zeppelin - Weikersheim – dairy cattle - winery

Breakfast buffet at the hotel

9:00 am Coach journey to Niederstetten, about 25 km / 15½ miles

9:30 am **Visit to Niederstetten.** This little town is interesting to us because of three facts:

1. It was one of the starting points of the very early Hohenlohe pork butcher migration movement to Britain, alongside Künzelsau. One of the butchers who returned, had a house built there for retirement which still exists.

2. For 117 years there was a weekly market for piglets. It was only closed 7 years ago. Before, it was the biggest market of its kind in Germany. 5.000 animals were sold here every week. The contract between farmer and dealer was finalised by a handshake.

3. German pork butchers living in coastal areas of North East England were unjustifiably blamed for giving light signals to German Zeppelins that attacked harbour towns during WW I. Niederstetten has a close connection to these airships. Albert Sammt (1889-1982), an inhabitant, was the officer at the elevator assembly during the first Atlantic crossing of a Zeppelin in 1924. He survived the catastrophe of the "Hindenburg" at Lakehurst and he was commander of the last vessel LZ 130 "Graf Zeppelin".

*In the small **Albert-Sammt-Zeppelin-Museum** we'll get to know about his life and see some documents, and other memorabilia.*

11:00 am Coach journey to Weikersheim, about 12 km / 7½ miles.

11:30 am Arrival at Weikersheim. Time to explore the nice little residential town of the Counts and Princes of Hohenlohe. Time for some tea, an ice cream or a snack.

1:30 pm Tour of Weikersheim Castle and walk through the park. During their rule, the Counts of Hohenlohe created a number of impressive buildings and a magnificent park at their residence in Weikersheim. Their stewardship lasted over a hundred years spanning the Renaissance and Baroque eras.

3:15 pm Coach trip to Aischland farm

3:30 pm **Guided tour at Aischland farm.** *Nicely situated above Weikersheim, the farm is a modern enterprise. Two families keep 650 animals of which 300 are dairy cattle. They produce 6.500 litres milk a day which is sufficient to provide all inhabitants of Weikersheim with milk. Each cow produces between 9.000 and 10.000 litres of milk a year. Alongside they run a biogas plant that only uses the manure of their animals and no greenstuff. It delivers electricity for 200 households.*

At the farm we'll get an afternoon coffee and some cake. Then we can watch the rotary milking parlour at work before we leave for a visit to a winery.

Ihr Spezialist
für Agrarreisen



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- 5:45 pm Short coach trip to Queckbronn
- 6:00 pm **Guided tour through the winery and cellars of the Hofäcker family with wine tasting of five different wines and an evening meal.**

Mr. Hofäcker talks about his daily work and explains the difficult process to produce a good wine. While eating and drinking a local musician will entertain us with some popular melodies on his accordion.

Return journey to Rothenburg



5th day, Saturday 11.08.18: Bad Mergentheim – Homeward Journey



- 7:30 am Breakfast buffet at the hotel, check-out, luggage can be deposited at the hotel.

- 9:00 am Coach journey to Bad Mergentheim, about 45 km / 28 miles

- 10:30 am **Combined guided tour of town and spa gardens** (in English language), duration about one hour and forty minutes. *In groups we'll discover the two faces of Bad Mergentheim: the lively historic town as well as the silent and recreational spa gardens.*

Subsequently, there will be some free time in Bad Mergentheim



- 3:00 pm Return journey to the hotel

Commencement of homeward journey or extension on one's own account.



Time at one's own disposal to explore the area and possibility of visiting German relatives.

The 3rd Great German Pork Butcher Descendants' Reunion may be accompanied by a local radio station and also by reporters of some local newspapers. Participants may occasionally be interviewed.



All programme information is subject to amendment!

