

## Eine Deutsche Reise

For most of September, we were immersed in German culture. The first week we traveled by car in eastern Germany. A highlight for us was a visit to Seiffen in the Erzgebirge area. While visiting the shop from which GTHS purchases hand-crafted wooden items for resale at our annual Christmas Market, we met the ladies who recently packed our order!



We spent the next two weeks with a tour group of eight, all with German ancestry. Under the auspices of GTHS member Ute Boese and her company, *The German American Connection (TGAC)*, we toured impressive and inspiring sites of European history and culture—churches, monasteries, castles, Catholic pilgrimage sites, Protestant Reformation and Martin Luther sites, UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites, Romanesque Road, historic buildings and much more.



*Linda Phillips, Robert and Laverne Knezcek, Jim and Gerri West, Peggy and Lowell Reeves, August Rabenick*

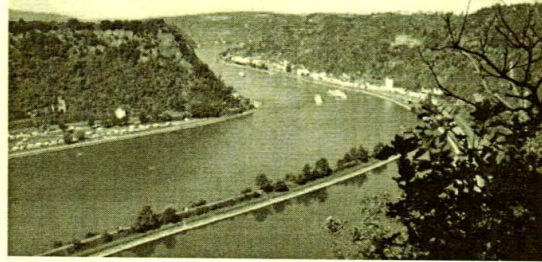
The Passion Play at Oberammergau was a real highlight made doubly so by the fact that we had front row seats! Being so close to the performers and feeling the power of the music and drama was an experience not to be missed.

Under Ute's expert leadership, we not only visited but learned about the history of each place. Because of our group size, we were able to stay in

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smaller, intimate lodgings with wonderful hosts. We ate in specially selected historical restaurants which put us in touch with the background of each location. We ate prodigious amounts of wonderful German food and sampled the local beers and wines and yet gained no weight! Why? Because we walked through town and countryside and climbed up every tower step we could find! Taking a tour like this requires sturdy walking shoes and those famous German "walking sticks" proved very handy for some of us.



*Beautiful Rhine River from atop der Loreleyfelsen*

We heartily recommend these customized tours conducted by Ute Boese and the German American Connection. Check out the website [www.germanamericanconnection.com](http://www.germanamericanconnection.com) to learn more about their offerings. *Gerri and Jim West*

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