

University of South Dakota: Renewable Energy and Sustainability

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

(subject to change without notice)

Day 1 >> Sat. May 17:

Your adventure begins as you board your flight to Brussels, Belgium

Hartelijk Welkom/ Bienvenue! Herzlich Willkommen!

Day 2 >> Sun. May 18: (Brussels)

4 nights in twin rooms with private bathrooms incl. breakfast at a 2 or 3-star hotel in Brussels

Morning/Afternoon: Arrival at Brussels Airport. After clearing customs and immigration, meet your on-site coordinator who will be available to introduce you to Europe today.

A private coach bus will take you from the airport to your hotel in Brussels.

Check into your room and then start off your program with an orientation session at your hotel. Your coordinator will hand out maps of Brussels as well as public transportation passes to you. In order to get a first overview of the capital of Belgium, join your group for a private guided walking tour of Brussels. The city has been given its character by the coexistence of French and Flemish culture, and it is nowadays home to nationalities around the world, adding a cosmopolitan flavor to its atmosphere. The vibrant atmosphere of Brussels is further enhanced by picturesque medieval streets, lively squares, beautiful boulevards and impressive monuments.

Evening: A special welcome dinner awaits your group at a restaurant in Brussels.

Day 3 >> Mon. May 19: (Brussels)

Morning: Begin your day with a visit to the European Commission, which is the executive branch of the European Union. The body is responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the Union's treaties and the general day-to-day running of the Union.

Afternoon: Visit Brussel's main attraction, the Atomium (entrance fee included). Inaugurated on the occasion of the 1958 World Exhibition and fully renovated in 2005, the Atomium is built on the model of a metal crystalline molecule enlarged 165 billion times. Enjoy the most spectacular views of Brussels and Brabant from the uppermost ball.

Day 4 >> Tues. May 20: (Brussels)

Morning: Your morning awaits you with a visit to the Renewable Energy House (REH), the headquarters for the European renewable energy sector and the focal point for renewable energy issues in the Europe Union's capital, Brussels. Learn about renewable energy in general and about the synergies that the REH creates between renewable energy stakeholders.

Afternoon: Enjoy a free afternoon in Brussels to explore the city further on your own... You may want to visit the Cinquantenaire. This park was developed by King Leopold II to celebrate 50 years of Belgian independence.

Day 5 >> Wed. May 21: (Brussels)

- Morning: Visit the Chocolaterie Duval in Brussels and learn more about the art of chocolate making. During a workshop you will have the opportunity to see all steps in the manual production of chocolates, make and taste chocolate yourself
- Afternoon: Enjoy a free afternoon in Brussels for more sightseeing on your own... Discover the Mont des Arts (meaning "hill/mountain of the arts"), a historic site in the city center of Brussels offering one of Brussels' finest views. Admire the famous tower of the Brussels Town Hall at the Grand Place and on a sunny day, you can even see the Koekelberg Basilica and the Atomium.

Day 6 >> Thurs. May 22: (Brussels - Enschede - Hamburg)

A private coach bus will be chartered exclusively for your group's transportation to Hamburg today.
4 nights in twin rooms with private bathrooms incl. breakfast at a 2 or 3-star hotel in Hamburg

- Morning: **Arranged by USD:** After check-out, you will travel with your group to the University of Twente in Enschede for a visit and meeting with a university professor including group lunch.
- Late Afternoon: Continue your journey to Hamburg, check into your hotel and meet up with your coordinator for an orientation session to learn about the city of Hamburg and your new surroundings.
- Evening: Enjoy a group dinner at a restaurant in Hamburg.

Day 7 >> Fri. May 23: (Oldenburg)

A private coach bus will be chartered exclusively for your group's excursion to Oldenburg today.

- All day: **Arranged by USD:** Start your day with a visit to the university in Oldenburg. You will discover their campus and meet up with a representative from the international office, as well as enjoy a lecture given by a local professor. Enjoy some free time to discover the city on your own afterwards... With its four universities and more than 20,000 students, Oldenburg is known as a lively and intellectual metropolis. The city's economic focus lies on advanced technology, especially on sustainable energy. Being home for innovative thinkers, Oldenburg has been voted the "City of Science 2009".

Day 8 >> Sat. May 24: (Hamburg)

- Morning: Enjoy a private guided walking tour of Hamburg in the morning. The tour will take you from the city hall to the warehouse district (Speicherstadt) and to the harbor city (HafenCity). During the tour you will see many different sights between the rivers Alster and Elbe. For instance you will cross the Trostbrücke to get to the church of St. Nikolai, see the fantastic buildings of the warehouse district and walk along the historic Deichstrasse. You will learn a lot about both the old and the new parts of Hamburg.
- Afternoon: Enjoy a free afternoon in the Hanseatic City... Consider visiting the "Osaka 9", the HafenCity Sustainability Pavillon, which gives a clear overview of the spectrum of activities where sustainable urban development is focused. There, you will have the possibility to learn about the HafenCity project, currently Europe's largest inner-city development project.

Day 9 >> Sun. May 25: (Hamburg)

- Morning: Enjoy a free morning... Consider exploring the "Hamburg Fischmarkt". Every Sunday it attracts approximately 70,000 visitors who stroll along the market or dance to live music in the early morning.
- Afternoon: Your afternoon awaits you with a guided Hamburg harbor boat tour. On this special harbor tour you will see the large harbor area with its docks, cranes, landings and gigantic cargo ships and you will also learn about the environmental problems caused by the port operation. This alternative harbor tour will explain some interrelations between economical functions and ecological issues. The Port of Hamburg is a seaport and deep water harbor off the North Sea, on the river Elbe. It is the largest port in Germany and the third-largest port of Europe.

Day 10 >> Mon. May 26: (Hamburg - Berlin)

A private coach bus will be chartered exclusively for your group's transportation to Berlin today
5 nights in twin rooms with private bathrooms incl. breakfast at a 2 or 3-star hotel in Berlin

- Morning: After check-out you will continue by private bus to your hotel in Berlin. Upon arrival in Germany's capital, join your local guide for a private guided walking tour of Berlin and see sights like "Deutscher Dom", the "Staatsoper" and the Humboldt University while walking across the "Bebelplatz" and the boulevard "Unter den Linden". Your tour will also lead you towards the "Regierungsviertel" where you may admire the famous "Brandenburger Tor" and see several parliament buildings such as the "Reichstag" and the "Kanzleramt".
- Afternoon: Enjoy a free afternoon to get settled in your new surroundings and explore Berlin further on your own...

Day 11 >> Tues. May 27: (Berlin)

- Morning: Your morning starts with a visit to the "Renewable Energies Agency" to learn about how they communicate the most important advantages of a sustainable electricity supply on the basis of renewable energy. Their aim is to strengthen trust in renewable energies offering comprehensive multi-media information as well as strategic agenda setting. The Agency for Renewable Energy is not only supported by many companies and associations, but also by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection.
- Afternoon: Find out more about the German history during your visit to the German Historical Museum and enjoy the permanent exhibition "From the Weimar Republic to the NS Regime". The Zeughaus, the main building of the German Historical Museum, is a magnificent Baroque building. Originally, it was an arsenal and later a military museum until it was destroyed in WWII. It has housed the German Historical Museum since 1990.

Day 12 >> Wed. May 28: (Berlin)

- Morning: Learn about topics such as Sustainable Management Development and Environmental Management during a meeting with a representative of the Institute for Resource Conservation, Innovation and Sustainability (IRIS). They accompany organizations and enterprises on the way to a form of organization based on the principle of sustainability and, consequently, sustainable development.
- Afternoon: The German Technology Museum Berlin offers a comprehensive insight into technical cultural history in Germany, and offers a large space for all kinds of hands-on experiments at the Science Center Spectrum. Visit the exhibitions of the museum at your own pace with an audio-guide.

Day 13 >> Thurs. May 29: (Berlin) - National holiday in Germany (Ascension Day)

- All day: Enjoy a free day to discover Berlin further on your own... Alternatively, consider traveling to Potsdam. The city has several claims to national and international notability. In Germany, it had a similar status like Windsor has in the United Kingdom: it was the residence of the Prussian Kings and German Kaisers, until 1918. Around the city there are a series of interconnected lakes and unique cultural landmarks, in particular the parks and palaces of Sanssouci, the largest World Heritage Site in Germany. The Potsdam Conference, the major post-World War II conference between the victorious Allies, was held at another palace in the area, the Cecilienhof.

Day 14 >> Fri. May 30: (Berlin)

- All day: The day is free for final discussions and wrap up of the program.
- Evening: A farewell dinner will be arranged for your group at a restaurant in Berlin.

Day 15 >> Sat. May 31: (Berlin)

- Your private coach bus will pick you up at the hotel and take you to Berlin Tegel Airport. Begin your journey to return home.