



GUELPH ARTS COUNCIL TOUR

April 7 to 20, 2015

Conducted by Historian Jacques Pauwels, PhD

Europe's Heartland from Alsace to Belgium: Alsace – Lorraine – Belgium – Luxembourg

Guelph Arts Council is pleased to announce the details of its 17th annual spring arts and cultural tour. Planned for **April 7 to 20**, the 2015 tour will be a 14-day journey into Europe's heartland between the Rivers Rhine and Meuse, including Alsace, Lorraine, Luxembourg, Belgium and a brief foray into Germany. In addition to being situated on the cusp of Latin and Germanic civilizations, this area is the cradle of wonderful art and architecture and is witness to dramatic historical events. Highlights will include a tour of the Ardennes Forest, the vineyards of Alsace, and great historical sites and cultural centres.

After arrival in Brussels, tour participants will proceed by bus to **Luxembourg** to explore the capital city of the same name, an historic fortress town sometimes called the "Gibraltar of the North," and to enjoy an excursion to **Trier**, said to be the oldest city in Germany, with a remarkable collection of Roman ruins that has earned it a spot on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Then it will be on to France, first to **Alsace**, and its capital, **Strasbourg**, whose historical centre is also a UNESCO heritage site, followed by a day-trip into the countryside to the mediaeval wine village of **Riquewhir** and the town of **Colmar** with its fine historical centre.



School of Nancy Museum (Art Nouveau), Nancy, France

The next destination will be Alsace's sister province of **Lorraine**, via **Metz**, one of the province's major historical and cultural centres, and on to **Nancy**, the elegant capital of Lorraine and a major centre for Art Nouveau in the early 20th century. After a visit to **Verdun**, known for one of the costliest battles of World War I as well as the Verdun Treaty of 843, the tour route will follow the Meuse River valley to enter the French-speaking **Wallonia** region of Belgium. Here explorations will centre on the capital town

Namur, with its prominent citadel, as well as **Mons**, the site of two famous World War I battles.



Namur's Citadel and the Meuse River

The last stop on the tour will be **Brussels**, the capital of Belgium, with its many historical and cultural attractions, including the fabulous Art Nouveau Horta Museum and the splendid Fine Arts Museum, and a chance to visit the nearby famous battlefield of **Waterloo** where Wellington defeated Napoleon two centuries ago.

With the comfort of great hotels and a chance to explore this wonderful part of Europe, Guelph Arts Council members and friends are again in for a real treat!

To avoid disappointment, early registration for this tour is recommended. The 2014 GAC tour to Hungary/Romania was sold out before summer's end 2013.

TOUR COST: \$3,995 from Toronto based on double occupancy. Single supplement extra. Airport taxes, security fees, fuel surcharges not included.

To register for *Europe's Heartland* or to obtain a detailed brochure, contact: **Sally Wismer**
519-824-8131 jswismer@sentex.net

Guelph Arts Council 519-836-3280

*Tour arrangements by Pauwels Travel, Brantford. ON
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