

# Walk in the Footsteps of Saint Hildegard September 8-18, 2024

Join The Rev. Canon Jon Anderson and Filmmaker-Pilgrims Michael M. Conti & Heather Boyle from September 8 to 18, 2024, in Germany, on a spiritual journey through the Hildegard Way Pilgrimage, tracing the path of Saint Hildegard von Bingen, a revered theologian, composer, and mystic. This pilgrimage offers a unique blend of religious reflection, historical exploration, and breathtaking natural landscapes. Spanning key locations significant to Hildegard's life, this transformative journey connects pilgrims to her deep legacy and fosters personal growth and contemplation.

The Hildegard Way Trail stretches 84 miles (135 km), and we will walk highlights over six days. Each day invites spiritual reflection and connection with nature, resonating with Hildegard's holistic teachings and her extraordinary legacy.

Cost is \$5990.00 from Denver, CO; other cities are available. Land-based cost is \$4890.00.

## Package Includes:

- Roundtrip Airfare and all ground transportation
- All overnight accommodations and most meals
- Walking and cultural pilgrimage for Hildegard Week, includes Saint Hildegard's Feast Day at the Pilgrimage Church.
- Nine-night stay in a comfortable and convenient accommodation with dining options
- Time for preparation leading up to pilgrimage and reflection afterwards.
- Pilgrim passports, admissions to sites, lectures, films, music events, and Hildegard docent-led trail guides.



# Saint Hildegard Pilgrimage Itinerary Highlights September 08 - 18, 2024

## Day 1, September 08th, 2024 (Sunday) Departure

- Depart US for your overnight flight to Germany. Meals will be served on board the flight.

## Day 2, September 9th, 2024 (Monday): Frankfurt arrival – Bad Kreuznach

- Arrival at Frankfurt Airport and transfer to Bad Kreuznach (app. 1h drive)
- First days are intentionally planned to help participants experience the greening region that so influenced St. Hildegard. We will engage physically in our environment and allow the Land of Hildegard, the river country, rolling hills and forests, and the special places where Hildegard lived deeply nourish us. This is part of the path of joy and awe and of the outward journey.
- Enjoy lunch at the hotel, nearby restaurant [or room service if available]
- We invite you to have a slow relaxing arrival with a walk in the beautiful park adjoining the hotel,
- Enjoy dinner at the hotel as a group
- Participate in retreat welcome and group introductions.
- After dinner together at the hotel, Michael M. Conti will host a screening of his film “The Unruly Mystic: Saint Hildegard” and Q&A session
- **Overnight in Bad Kreuznach (D)** **Attention:** Schedule on this day is subject to change depending on flight details

## Day 3, September 10th, 2024 (Tuesday): Bad Kreuznach - Bingen am Rhein – Bad Kreuznach

- Breakfast at the hotel
- We invite you to ease into our Land of Hildegard experience with a relaxing morning into town of Bad Kreuznach. Bad Kreuznach is noted for having several public spa pool bath houses, lovely parks and walking trails along the river Nahe, a remarkable Roman archeological museum (Museum Römerhalle), and a variety of nice restaurant and shops along the river and in the quaint downtown section (time to explore on your own).
- Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant on your own in Bad Kreuznach.
- Transfer to Bingen am Rhein, and go cross the river to Rudesheim am Rhein by ferry for a river cruise.
- Downstream from Bingen am Rhein, as the Rhine River flows through the scenic Rhine Gorge, you'll encounter a breathtaking array of natural beauty, historic landmarks, and charming towns.
- Return to Bad Kreuznach
- Dinner at the hotel
- We will come together after dinner for a Hildegard discussion with Dr. Annette Esser, a Hildegard scholar who will talk about her work designing the Hildegard Way trail and writing the texts of the film and book “Hildegard Speaks”.
- **Overnight in Bad Kreuznach (B,D)**

## Day 4: September 11th, 2024 (Wednesday): Bad Kreuznach - Idar Oberstein – Herrstein – Niederhosenbach – Bergen – Bad Kreuznach

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Today we will travel by coach to the start of the Hildegard Trail in Idar Oberstein, explore the gem shops. Many of the precious stones that Hildegard speaks of in the “Heavenly Jerusalem” are mined in the mountainous Idar Oberstein area. Although the famous “church in the rock” above Idar Oberstein is no longer open to the public, we will be able to see the church in the town square, and it is here that we will begin our Hildegard journey and readings.
- Lunch will be in Idar Oberstein at local restaurants (3-course menu incl. water)
- Then travel on to the picturesque village of Herrstein.
- Walk to Niederhosenbach and Bergen if time allows with Scivias Institute Guide
- Return to Bad Kreuznach
- Dinner at the hotel
- **Overnight in Bad Kreuznach (B,L,D)** **Attention:** Today will be a walking day, so wear comfortable walking shoes, water, and appropriate weather gear.

## Day 5, September 12th, 2024 (Thursday): Bad Kreuznach - Dhaun - Bingen – Bad Kreuznach

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Today we will travel by coach to visit a beautiful Hildegard inspired garden in Dhaun, Hochstetten-Dhaun
- We will have lunch together at one of the village at local restaurants (3-course menu incl. water)
- Transfer to Vineyard
- Afternoon will be given to a visit to a vineyard in the Bingen region which promises a memorable journey through centuries of winemaking tradition, where you can discover the essence of this enchanting corner of the Rhine Valley.
- Transfer to Bingen (30 minutes)
- Dinner is a typical Hildegard vegetarian dish, which will be served with a glass of fortified wine at the Hildegard Forum in Bingen with screening of Hildegard Speaks and Q&A session afterwards with Dr. Annette Esser and Michael M. Conti
- Return to Bad Kreuznach
- **Overnight in Bad Kreuznach (B,L,D)**

**Attention:** Today will be a walking day, so wear comfortable walking shoes, water, and appropriate weather gear.

## Day 6, September 13th, 2024 (Friday): Bad Kreuznach - Disibodenberg – Bad Kreuznach

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to Disibodenberg.
- Today we visit one of the most significant locations of Hildegard's Homeland, the sacred site of Disibodenberg, at the top of the hill next to the rivers Glan and Nahe.
- Although the Disibodenberg today is a ruin, the sacred atmosphere of this forested hilltop is unmistakable and will take you under its spell. It is indeed a “thin veil” place, even before the construction of the Benedictine monastery in the early 10th century, it had already been a sacred Celtic site. It is here where Hildegard spent most of the first half of her life (1106 - 1147), together with her cousin and mentor, Jutta.
- Scivias Institute Guide
- Enjoy box lunch while on the grounds of Disibodenberg
- Return to Bad Kreuznach
- Optional time for pool time, or spa treatments in Bad Kreuznach
- Opening of the International Hildegard Week before dinner, starts 4 PM
- Dinner that night will be on your own with options of staying at the hotel or venturing out on the town of Bad Kreuznach
- **Overnight in Bad Kreuznach (B,L)**

**Attention:** Today will be a walking day, so wear comfortable walking shoes, water, and appropriate weather gear.

- **Day 7, September 14th, 2024 (Saturday): Bad Kreuznach – Duchroth – Sponheim – Bad Kreuznach**
- Breakfast at the hotel
- Coach to Duchroth.
- We will start our day with a walk through the beautiful and charming village of Duchroth, an historic architectural treasure trove, parts of which date from 1335.
- We will then continue on by coach to near Sponheim, where we'll climb to the top of the tower, walk the trail over the hill into the town, and explore the ancient Romanesque church, one of the only churches still remaining from Hildegard's lifetime.
- Scivias Institute Guide
- Lunch together at a local restaurant at (3-course menu incl. water)
- Return to Bad Kreuznach
- Dinner that night will be on your own with options of staying at the hotel or one of the many restaurant options in Bad Kreuznach
- Transfer to Disibodenberg.
- Evening Concert as part of the International Hildegard Week – 7 PM
- Return to Bad Kreuznach
- **Overnight in Bad Kreuznach (B,L)**

**Attention:** Today will be a walking day, so wear comfortable walking shoes, water, and appropriate weather gear.

**Day 8, September 15th, 2024 (Sunday): Bad Kreuznach – Bingen am Rhein – Bad Kreuznach**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pilgerstunde Worship Service at Pauluskapell at 9 AM – Walk from hotel
- Attend a presentation of Liber Divinorum Operum by Sara Salvadori at 11 AM
- Lunch at Hause of Gastes with other attendees
- After lunch we travel by coach to the Rupertsberg Ruins. Although the church building constructed by Hildegard no longer exists, we will be allowed to go down the stairs into the large cellar area and crypt that were built in Hildegard's time, and which are still in use for concerts and special events.
- In 1147 at age 45 Hildegard left the Disibodenberg Abbey with about twenty of her fellow nuns and created the first of her own abbeys, the Rupertsberg Abbey, built above the grave of Saint Rupertus. Hildegard lived and worked at the Rupertsberg Abbey until her death in 1179 at age 81.
- Transfer to Rochusberg to visit the Rochus Chapel to view in particular the two side altars consecrated to Saints Hildegard and Rupert. The Hildegard altar by Jakob Busch shows scenes from the life of Saint Hildegard on eight reliefs.
- Scivias Institute Guide
- Return to Bad Kreuznach
- Transfer or walk to Zentrum St. Hildegard in Bad Kreuznach
- Dinner at the hotel
- Optional 7:00 Meet and Greet Evening as part of the International Hildegard Week
- Transfer or walk back to hotel
- **Overnight in Bad Kreuznach (B,L,D)**

**Attention:** Today will be a walking day, so wear comfortable walking shoes, water, and appropriate weather gear.

**Day 9, September 16th, 2024 (Monday): Bad Kreuznach - Stromberg to Bingerbrück Forest Walk (Rhine Reveal, & Hildegard Forum) – Bad Kreuznach**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to St. Jakobus Church in Stromberg.
- Today is long pilgrimage walking day, and we will hike in the morning through an "enchanted" forest with cleverly carved spirits, gnomes, and woodland creatures hidden within the trees and along the path. This will be the longest walk of the retreat and your efforts will be rewarded by our first view of the Rhine, with its beautiful scenic vistas and busy river traffic.
- Enjoy box lunch along the trail at one of the local Jägerhauses or at a beer garden above the river.
- Scivias Institute Guide
- After arriving in Bingen, we will be transported by coach to the Hildegard Forum at the top of the hill to see the Hildegard Herbal Garden.
- Post hike late afternoon coffee and cake are available at the Hildegard Forum outdoor restaurant next to the chapel (not included) [What time does the kitchen close?]
- Return to Bad Kreuznach
- Dinner on your own
- Evening Concert at Kleinkunsthöhle (Haus de Gausts) as part of the International Hildegard Week at 7 PM
- **Overnight in Bad Kreuznach (B,L)**

**Attention:** Please notice that trail from Stromberg to Bingenbrück is 19,5km and takes app. 6h for fit hiker.

- **Day 10, September 17th, 2024 (Tuesday): Saint Hildegard Feast Day - Rudesheim am Rhein – Bad Kreuznach**
- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to Rudesheim am Rhein.
- Today is the Feast Day of Saint Hildegard, with Hildegard groups throughout Germany and from around the world gathering together with Vatican officials to honor her at the pilgrimage church. The ultimate highlight of the retreat, rain-or-shine this event of remembrance and pageantry is unforgettable.
- An outdoor morning mass will be held in German at the Wallfahrtskirche St. Hildegard, followed by a community lunch
- The ornate Hildegard reliquary is then carefully brought outside and taken in procession through the village streets.
- In the afternoon we spend time at Abtei St. Hildegard, visiting the grounds, the gift shop and having wine and treats in the café.
- Return to Bad Kreuznach
- In the evening we will gather for our final dinner together to discuss and reflect upon our experiences of the past 9 days.
- Dinner at the hotel
- **Overnight in Bad Kreuznach (B,L,D)**

**Day 11, September 18th, 2024 (Wednesday): Bad Kreuznach – Frankfurt departure**

- Breakfast at the hotel and check-out
- Transfer to Frankfurt
- **Arrive at the Frankfurt Airport three hours prior to departure! (B)**

**Attention:** Schedule on this day is subject to change depending on flight details.

**DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS:** A deposit of \$1250.00.00 per person is required to make a reservation. The final payment is due no less than 90 days prior to the departure date of the tour ( June 08, 2024 ). Payment can be made by personal check or money order. Credit card payments will be accepted but will incur a 4% Surcharge at the time of booking. Reservations received after June 08, 2024 may incur additional charges due to supplier contract terms.

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** If a passenger cancels his/her tour membership there will be a cancellation fee of \$100.00 per person to cover administrative and communication costs up until 121 days before departure. For cancellations 120-91 days before departure the cancellation fee will be \$250.00 per person. 90-61 days before departure the cancellation fee will be 50% of the Cost per person. There will be no refund for cancellations within 60 days of departure, no-shows, or partially completed tours. All cancellation requests must be addressed to Goodshepherd Travel in writing. Trip cancellation insurance is recommended.

**FARE INCLUSIVE:** Roundtrip air transportation from Denver, CO (DEN) International Airport as indicated on the registration form. Nine (9) nights hotel accommodations, based on two people sharing a double or twin-bedded room in four star hotels by (local standards). All meals as outlined in the brochure consisting of full Local breakfasts (B), and dinners at the hotel (D). Sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary by private motor coaches, utilizing the services of a Government licensed, local English speaking tour guide. Entrance fees for attractions if applicable. All transfers between airports and hotels by private motor coach. Service charges and taxes normally levied by hotels and restaurants. All U.S. & Germany's departure taxes are included in the price of the tour. Tips to guides, motor coach drivers, hotel porters, and restaurant staff (i.e., maitre d', table waiter, etc.) are Not included. The brochure price is per person in US dollars.

**TOUR ITINERARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE:** Goodshepherd Travel constantly strives to adhere to the specifics shown in the itinerary; however, circumstances may necessitate changes. Such circumstances may require changes without advance notice during the tour. Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to change the itinerary if unforeseen circumstances beyond our control force a change. Goodshepherd Travel is not responsible for any changes caused by unforeseen circumstances.

**TOUR CANCELLATION:** Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to cancel or withdraw the tour at any time. In the event of a cancellation deemed necessary by Goodshepherd Travel , the sole and exclusive responsibility of Goodshepherd Travel is to refund all monies recovered.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Passport costs, visa fees (if any), and health documentation costs (when required); food and beverages (including coffee and tea) not usually included with the table d'hote meals; optional sightseeing tours and excursions; accident and baggage insurance; transporting and handling excess luggage; tips to persons rendering special personal services; items of a purely personal nature such as laundry, telephone, and cable expenses, room service orders, etc.; transportation between the home city and the international departure city.

**AIR ROUTINGS:** The brochure price includes IATA jet economy class transportation from the international departure city applicable on all IATA and ARC carriers, based on the 6/45 day Apex fare to Europe. Goodshepherd Travel. Reserves the right to choose the air carrier, routing, and departure time for each passenger. Airfares used are based on contracted group fares and are highly restrictive. Payments for and restrictions on airline tickets are governed by the applicable fare. Cancellation fees levied by the airlines are applicable if you cancel or change your air ticket for any reason after purchase of air ticket. Ticketing must be completed 45 days prior to departure. Group fares do not permit deviations; passengers who wish to deviate may arrange their own airfare. An airline credit of \$1100.00 will be given to those passengers who arrange their own airfare. Passengers planning to arrange their own air transportation must notify Goodshepherd Travel. in writing on or before June 08, 2024 . Seat numbers will be assigned by the airline at check-in; specific seat requests cannot be guaranteed. Passengers are responsible for providing frequent flyer information upon check-in.

**HOTELS:** Tour prices are per person, based on two people sharing a room in Deluxe hotels. Single rooms are subject to availability and at an additional cost of \$790.00 (tour participants without a roommate will have to pay single room surcharge).

**BAGGAGE:** You may check no more than one (1) piece of luggage whose overall dimensions does not exceed 62 inches (length + width + height) and whose weight does not exceed fifty (50) pounds in total. Checking a second bag will cost up to

\$100.00. Each passenger may also bring one (1) piece of carry-on luggage. Tips to hotel porters are included for one normal sized piece of luggage, excluding carry-on bags which must remain in your possession at all times. These regulations may change without notice so please read the monthly correspondence you will receive from Goodshepherd Travel for the most current information. Garment bags cannot be carried. Under no circumstances may dangerous articles such as firearms, explosives, oxygen, or combustible substances be contained in any baggage. Medications, valuables, passports, and a change of clothing should be packed in your carry-on bag.

**DISABILITIES:** Due to the difficult terrain at sites we visit, persons requiring oxygen or oxygen therapy will not be permitted on the tour. For reasons of passenger safety and well-being, persons with impaired mobility, vision, or mental capacity will not be permitted on the tour. Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to refuse passage to someone who is in such physical or mental condition as to be unfit for travel or who may require care and attention beyond that which the tour guide and tour host can provide. The tour requires a substantial amount of walking and the sites are not accessible by wheelchair.

**INSURANCE:** Acting only as agents for suppliers, Goodshepherd Travel is not responsible for damage, loss, or theft of luggage and/or personal belongings, or for personal injury, accident, illness and/or death as a result of any occurrences or conditions beyond its control, including, but not limited to, defects in vehicles, breakdown in equipment, strikes, terrorist attacks, hostage situations, kidnappings, hijackings, protests, riots, public demonstrations, or theft. For your protection, it is important that you have adequate insurance to cover these possibilities. Additional information and application forms for all types of coverage will be supplied you prior to departure.

**PASSPORT:** A valid passport is required and must be obtained in person by each tour member. Complete instructions and application forms for passports can be obtained by contacting your local courthouse or post office.

**PRICE CHANGES:** Tour conditions and air fares are subject to Governmental, IATA, ARC, and airline regulation requirements in effect at the date of and during the tour. All rates are quoted in US dollars and are based on tariffs and costs in effect in February 2024, and are subject to change without notice. Taxes and fuel surcharges of \$574.00 are included in your tour cost and are subject to change without notice. Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to pass along additional fuel surcharges or additional taxes imposed by the airline.

**DISCLAIMER:** Goodshepherd Travel acts as a tour operator and only a tour operator. The suppliers providing transportation, sightseeing arrangements and hotel accommodations for the tour program are independent contractors and are not agents or employees of Goodshepherd Travel. All coupons, receipts and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers. By utilizing the services of the suppliers, you agree that Goodshepherd Travel shall not be liable for any accident, loss, injury, death, or damage of any kind to you or to those traveling with you. This includes, but is not limited to, conditions beyond its control, defects in vehicles, breakdown in equipment, strikes, terrorist attacks, hostage situations, kidnappings, hijackings, protests, riots, public demonstrations, theft, delay or cancellation of or changes in itinerary or schedules. At the time of printing a TRAVEL WARNING as issued by the United States Department of State was in effect for parts of Europe. Remember also that all travel documents as well as compliance with customs regulations are your responsibility. The terms under which you agree to take these tours cannot be changed or amended except in writing, signed by an authorized officer of Goodshepherd Travel. Airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time you are not on board the aircraft. The passenger contract in use by the airline, when issued, constitutes the sole agreement between it and you. By virtue of my signature on the registration form below I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with this trip and I agree that Goodshepherd Travel assumes no liability of any kind and I hereby expressly waive any and all possible claims against Goodshepherd Travel., or Michael M. Conti Productions LLC (Michael M. Conti ), Red Door Production LLC (Heather Boyle), Scivias Institut für Kunst und Spiritualität (Annette Esser)/Rev. Canon Jon Anderson and the Episcopal Church of Colorado.

**ACCEPTANCE:** Registration for trip and payment of deposit constitutes your acceptance of the "Fine Print."

<p><b>Trip date:</b> September 08 - 18, 2024</p>	<p><b>Package Price with Airfare: \$5990.00</b> <b>Package Price "Land Only": \$4890.00</b> <b>Single supplement is \$790.00 (Private Room)</b></p>
<p><b>Package price include s the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airline Tickets</li> <li>• Accommodations at Bad Kreuznach (9 nights) –Park Hotel or similar</li> <li>• 6 Dinners</li> <li>• 6 Lunches</li> <li>• Air-conditioned bus from</li> <li>• English-speaking tour escort throughout the itinerary</li> <li>• Entrance fees</li> <li>• Headsets</li> <li>• Wi-Fi on the bus</li> </ul>	<p><b>Package price does not include the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lunches and soft drinks (Except for included)</li> <li>• All Personal Expenses.</li> <li>• Tips for hotel's staff, local guides, tour leader &amp; driver</li> <li>• Travel Insurance. (<b>Not Included but required for travel</b>)</li> <li>• All prices reflect a 4% cash discount and is forfeited when using a credit card</li> </ul>

# RESERVATION APPLICATION

**Spiritual Leader Rev. Canon Jon Anderson**

**Tour Leaders: Filmmaker-Pilgrims Michael M. Conti & Heather Boyle**

Saint Hildegard Pilgrimage

(September 08 - 18, 2024)

Group Reference Number: **G090824**

<b>Package Preference</b>	
Package with Airline Ticket from DEN \$5990	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land Only Package No Airline ticket \$4890	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please select one!</b>	

## PERSONAL INFORMATION (Please complete one application per person)

<b>Full Name</b> (as printed on your passport):				
First Name:		Middle Name:		Last Name:
<b>Name</b> (as you wish it to appear on your name badge):			<b>Date of birth:</b>	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	Street:		<b>Mobile phone:</b>	<b>Home phone:</b>
City:	State:	Zip code:	<b>Work phone:</b>	<b>Dietary restrictions and/or preference:</b>
<b>Email address:</b>				

## PASSPORT INFORMATION

<b>Country of citizenship:</b>	<b>Passport number:</b>
<b>Passport date of issue:</b>	<b>Passport date of expiration:</b>
<b>Frequent flyer number:</b>	<b>Known traveler number:</b>

## ROOM ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION

<b>Please check one:</b> Double/Triple occupancy <input type="checkbox"/> Single occupancy ( <b>Private Room</b> ) \$790.00 additional <input type="checkbox"/> <i>*All prices are in US Dollars based on per person in a double/Triple room, Passengers rooming alone is subject to single supplement*</i>
If choosing double occupancy, please indicate the name of your roommate if known at the time of booking:
If choosing single occupancy, would you be willing to share a room with another person? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please list the name, relationship, and phone number for a family member/close friend who is <b>NOT</b> traveling with you:
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<b>I agree to the terms and conditions as stated in this tour contract:</b>
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please enclose a copy of current passport and a deposit of **\$1250.00 per person** made payable to

**Goodshepherd Travel**

9021 Washington Lane  
Lantana, Texas 76226

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