

## Travel Guide to Europe

*By Chris Hirschhorn*

One of my fellow teachers in Massachusetts asked me if I'd like to travel as a guide for college students to Europe. Of course I said "Yes" and so began my relationship with the "Experiment in International Living" as a group leader. My first assignment was to take Pre-Med students to a Med School in Dusseldorf, Germany. We sailed from the US in 1953, on the Dutch ship, the Arosa Kulm. We each lived with a different family in Germany.

Our German group met us with a bus at the pier as we disembarked on a Sunday afternoon and brought us to a Tea Dance. In those days, on Sunday afternoons, Germans walked, and would go to afternoon tea dances at restaurants. Our German leader, Helga, brought us to such a place. Herbert, from the German Group asked me to dance. As we were dancing Helga came to us and said "Herbert you cannot dance with Chris, we are engaged and I am the only woman you can dance with." Herbert and I were taught a lesson.

After the month in Dusseldorf's Medical School, and traveling around Dusseldorf, our group of Germans and Americans boarded a bus and travelled to campgrounds and set up tents and camped. We camped through Germany and Switzerland. Germany was still under meat rationing. We had meat when camping because Helga's dad was a butcher.

The next summer, 1954, I took a group of college girls to Brighton, England. On the boat crossing the Atlantic one of my students was leaning into the wind so heavily that if the ship stopped, she'd fall into the ocean. Fortunately, she was in a doctor's family and he understood her medical problem, phoned her dad and eventually she and her family lived together well.

England was still on sugar rationing. We did day trips into London to museums and the zoo and special houses and estates such as Churchill's family estate.

We camped in northern England and Scotland. We even had tickets to the Edinburgh Festival. In line to an afternoon performance, I heard that a new young actor was performing and his name was Richard Burton. Everyone was excited and, of course, so was I.

I have travelled and lived in many countries in Europe, Asia and South America and everything has been great fun and very interesting.