

Croydon Crusaders

Austria TED Expedition 2006

(Crusaders is a registered charity)

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PLEASE RETAIN THIS INFORMATION FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Dear Potential Team Member,

Thank you for asking for information about our Austria Expedition in 2006. If you do join us, you will be a team member. Whenever this letter speaks about team members, it means you! This will be a long letter but it should answer all the questions you may have. However, if you need to know more, please ask, using email if possible. Please note that some details may change but you will be kept informed by email if you have booked.

This will be my seventh year leading the TED expedition so I know a great deal about where we are going and what we will be doing. For the first 3 years the trip was part of the Crusoe (Crusaders Overseas Expeditions) programme organised by Crusaders. From 2003 the same expedition has been run under my own Croydon Crusaders Group. Apart from that, all is the same and it is a great success. The 2006 trip is open to any Christian young person aged 15 to 25 who wants to serve God on a working holiday. For legal reasons, by applying they become members of Croydon Crusaders. I promise a great deal of fun in one of the most beautiful parts of Europe in a building that you will find to be very hospitable and lovely. You will live in luxury but I also promise that you will work hard!

SCHLOSS KLAUS

We will be going to Schloss Klaus in Upper Austria. If you are looking at a map of Austria, find Vienna and Salzburg and imagine a line drawn between them. We are about a third of the way along that line from Salzburg and are more or less directly south of Linz. This is a major mountain valley with rail and motorway routes as well as the river Styer. The river is dammed near Schloss Klaus and the lake created is suitable for swimming and boating. We get beautiful views of it from many of the rooms. Other views are of the mountains and the valley well below us. We are on a high, steep hill in the middle of the valley. I have attached a drawing of the castle. Videos of previous projects are available.

The castle (schloss is castle in German) guards the valley routes and was first constructed about 800 years ago. That part is known as the fortress. A second building was put up about 250 years ago and is known as the castle. The fortress was a complete ruin and the castle in need of urgent repair when it was taken over on lease as a Bible College and retreat centre. It has been completely renovated and is extremely well appointed in traditional materials. It has had many grants from Austrian heritage funds and is now the largest restored ancient monument in Austria.

In both the Lutheran and Catholic churches in Austria, it is required of those who have been confirmed to go on a retreat. Both churches use Schloss Klaus for this. In addition, there are other holidays and events run for these young people and we are going to join and help run one of these called Ten English Days or TED.

HOSTS (For the duration of the project).

TED Team, Schloss Klaus, A-4564 Klaus/OÖ, AUSTRIA. Tel: (0043) 7585/441 office@schlossklaus.at
There is a phone and an email facility for you to contact home for a small charge.

THE PROJECT

In Austrian schools, it is necessary to reach set standards before you can go up into the next year group. To be kept down a year is far from pleasant and there is a great concern to reach the standard. One key subject is English. The young people with whom we are to share will be keen to get their English up to standard and we are there to help them by speaking good, clear English. For some of them this will be hard work and we will need patience and kindness to help them.

Their holiday is called "Ten English Days". This will always be called TED. Teams from Austria and the UK will run TED. For the last few years about 90 German speaking young people aged 13 to 18 attended TED. On the first day of TED we will put everyone into a group. For the Austrians, this will depend on their skill in the English language. Team members will be allocated to groups. Each of these groups will be involved in competitions and sports. They will also have discussion times on Bible themes.

In general, the mornings at TED will be spent in meetings or discussion groups with an hour or so of free time before lunch. The afternoons will be for activities, with some group time, and the evening will consist of a meeting and some form of shared activity. Your duties will be

1. You will help supervise a dormitory. You may be the only UK person but will share the leadership with at least one other person in the larger rooms.
2. You may volunteer to help serve and clear up meals
3. You may be active in leading your group in all sorts of activities.
4. You may volunteer to help in the leading of the meetings, perhaps by playing in a band or singing in a choir. There is a need for good drama. We plan to have 2 bands and 2 drama groups, different ones for morning and evening.
5. You may volunteer to help run activities. This could be to devise and run an activity for "It's a knockout" or running a club for activities such as origami, board games, music, art and crafts.
6. We may be asked to help run a UK evening and other activities.

Each day we will have time together with the rest of the team, to pray and reflect on a Bible passage. There is a huge staff team to run TED. (36 in 2005) Why? Well there is a second thread to TED and that is leadership training. We hope to help you to become more effective in leadership in your Crusader Group or church.

To be really effective, you will have to be prepared to spend most of your time with your group and other German speakers and not huddling with other UK team members. We will actively encourage you to do so if huddling occurs! We will have time before arriving at the castle to get to know each other and we will have some time together after TED

THE DATES

TED starts on Wednesday 26 July and ends on Saturday 5 August but we are due to arrive at the castle on Saturday 22nd to get to know the other teams and to prepare for TED. We plan to travel out during the week prior to the 22nd probably Wednesday 19th and return soon after the 5th probably Monday 7th August depending on flights and costs. Some members may need to ask for a few days off school. The nature of the expedition should gain approval from most schools and it would be good to check this before you apply.

We will take time before we meet the Austrian team to be together. Part of this time will be spent in planning. We will also take time to see something of Austria. Most probably we will visit Gmunden and Wintishgarsten in 2006. We do not intend to meet as a team beforehand to avoid taking team members away from examination revision. After the TED members leave we have booked to stay in Linz, as guests of the Mennonite Church, to take time to reflect on what we have been doing and to relax together. Staying at the castle is a bit strange when everyone else has gone.

INSURANCE, HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY

Austria has an excellent health service. You will need an EU health entitlement card, which has replaced the E111. It is up to you to take care of yourself. Britain has become obsessed with regulations and signs telling you what is safe and what is not. Austria does not have so many. For example, the main line railway that runs, literally, under the castle is unfenced! We are assuming that each team member will be old and mature enough to be sensible in what they do, especially when near water or other dangers. **Group Travel Insurance is included in the cost.** Details of the cover will be emailed before we leave. Please ensure your application form has any relevant information for insurance.

However, we do need to watch out for are ticks. Anyone who has visited the New Forest will be aware of the problem. Ticks sometimes attach themselves to humans. The first aid person at the castle is an expert at removing them. However, anyone having a tick will be sent for an injection as 1% of them carry encephalitis. No one in our expedition teams had a tick until 2005. All the Austrian young people do have an injection as a precaution. This is only available to us if we get a tick. The advice from my GP is as follows: Austria Vaccinations Tick-borne encephalitis Consider vaccination for rural travel between May and September. This is not available under the NHS. Private injections could cost in excess of £100. For further information see www.doh.gov.uk

To encourage you, the water in the castle comes from its own mountain spring. it is good enough to be bottled and sold. It seems almost crude to think that we shower with it! The food is excellent and the castle is immaculately clean. We all have to change shoes as we go in to keep the floors clean!

Because the castle is an ancient monument, it has not been possible to fit lifts. There are lots of stairs (about 206 from car park to top floor.) It is not possible for those with certain disabilities to join this expedition. If you have any doubts, please ask. The medical section of the application form is vital in assessing the suitability of applicants for the type of work we will be doing.

Unfortunately, lockers for personal possessions are not available. Only once has this been an issue. You will be responsible for the care of your own property. The leaders can lock away valuables, such as cameras and musical instruments. There will be a bank for the care of cash, tickets, passports and E111's.

There will be a laundry service available and we will only need to pack enough clothes for one week.

COME PREPARED

At some stage over the preparation week everyone will be asked to run an "ice breaker" game. We will give you about 15 minutes for your game. Also, you will be asked to give your testimony. That is not just how you became a Christian

but could be speaking about what God has been doing in your life. You will be expected to speak for about 5 minutes. Lastly, you will be asked to speak about your favourite Bible verse/passage, again for about 5 minutes.

MUSIC

We are very keen that any musicians should come prepared to play. If possible, they should bring their own instrument but it is hard to get a harp on the plane! We will be looking for someone to co-ordinate this. Similarly, we will look for those who can take part in dance and drama. Please be open about your interests when applying.

THE COST

The estimated cost is £550. The cost could be less but I am basing this on my 5 years of previous experience but the exact cost will become clearer as we get board and lodging and travel costs confirmed. However, the cost will depend on our getting cheap flights. This will require early booking. If the price is more than £550 then you will have the option to withdraw and get your deposit refunded in full as long as you decide before 31st January 2006. If, after this, costs increase, we will take the money from our support fund. Alternatively, any surplus would be added to this fund for use in future TED expeditions. To secure your place we are asking for you to apply NOW and pay a non-returnable deposit of £100. The remainder will be due by 31st May 2006.

Please note that the cost will cover travel from a London airport to Austria and back but not travel from your home to the airport. Once in Austria, all your travel, accommodation and meals will be paid for. If we have a flight with no meal you will have to pay for any food or drink you need. Any excursions in Austria are included in the cost as will travel insurance and laundry. There will not be a great need for pocket money and this fact should be borne in mind when considering the value for money that we are offering.

How do we keep the cost so low? The leaders are all paying their share, for one thing. It would be good if the team could bear this in mind and ensure that the leaders get a good expedition as well! Our only unknowns, once the castle decides on our costs, will be the travel and our first days together.

PAYING FOR THE EXPEDITION

It has been a tradition that each person has raised their own costs either by working or by seeking grants. Please try to avoid asking members of your family to pay for you and seek to raise the money yourself.

If raising the money is a problem for you, please ask for help when you book. We do not aim to exclude anyone on inability to pay.

The expedition is being run as part of the work of Croydon Crusaders. Crusaders is a registered charity and the expedition is a charitable activity supporting the work of a charity in Austria. Please ask for information about gift aid.

EU GRANTS

In 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 we had generous grants towards the project from the European Union and we may be applying again this year. This has helped us over the years to keep costs low. If we get a grant the cost will go down. To apply for the grant we need application very early so please apply as soon as you can.

The final grant will be determined by the following:

1. Our production of receipts. We may well be able to claim for your travel. If you pay for a ticket, get a receipt and pass it to me. I will see if it is acceptable for a grant. Money raised from this will go towards funding the expedition.
2. We must show the EU that we have shared cultures with Austria.
3. It is conditional on our getting a grant that we produce a full report on our expedition. You will need to do an individual report just as the leaders have to do one for the project overall. You will find it useful to log all your fund raising activities with as many photographs as you can. Similarly, log your preparation for the cultural activities, if possible include pictures of you doing it and copies of any pictures you use. You will be kept informed by email of any grant application being made. It may be useful to get information from the Austria National Tourist Office, 13/14 Cork Street, London W1F 3MF 020 7629 6146 www.austria.info/uk

OBTAINING GRANTS AND OTHER SUPPORT

There are many trusts and other funding bodies who may well give you a grant towards your costs for this project. If you are seeking grants, remember to explain that the EU has given the project grant aid on 5 years so it is a bona fide cause for them to support.

PRAYER SUPPORT

We have an email prayer newsletter. Please let me know NOW of those willing to pray for us as we need prayer now. Prayer news is sent out about monthly until July and then sent every few days.

THE TEAM

Because of the nature of the work involving dormitory supervision, we would like an equal split of male and female participants. Please pass on the invitation to suitable people and urge them to apply as soon as possible. The leaders and

members will be invited to take on specific responsibilities such as: supervising all travel arrangements, running a pocket money bank, co-ordinating the music, drama and dance that we can offer, planning and running the UK evening. Once these have been allocated, it would be good if contact concerning any specific matters were made to the relevant leader by email. I will take overall charge of the expedition and the liaison with the other TED leaders.

The leaders will select the team on the basis of their suitability for the project. The application form and references are a very important part of this process. Those who have been on previous teams will only need to complete the short form. New applicants need only fill in the long form. Those selected will be notified by email. (The flight arrangements and kit list will be emailed to you nearer the time.) Your referees should be two Christian people who know you well. One should be a leader in your church or Christian youth group. The other should be a person, other than a relative, of some standing who can speak of your suitability for this Christian expedition. Please put your name and address on the form and, as a courtesy, the name and address of the referee. Then give them the form and a stamped addressed envelope and ask if it would be possible for them to send me their reference within the next 7 days.

We are anticipating a team of up to 24 maximum in 2006.

It is good to be able to get to know each other in advance of our meeting at the airport and it is sometimes helpful to arrange to travel to the airport together. For this reason we like to share email addresses, mobile and home phone numbers. If this is not convenient for you, please make it clear on the application form.

John Coatman
on behalf of the leadership team.

