

Martin Luther's Germany

By

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

DAY 1: BERLIN. Upon arrival in Berlin, guests are met by their English-speaking guide, assisted to waiting coach and transferred into the city. Check in at selected hotel. Balance of day at leisure.

DAY 2: BERLIN. Sightseeing in Berlin. The Kurfürstendamm ("Ku-damm") is the main street and is dominated by the broken tower of the commemorative church, which has been kept as a reminder of the destruction of war. In the former Western sector is the Reichstag, the restored Parliament building and the Charlottenburg Castle, the favorite home of Queen Sophie-Charlotte, surrounded by a beautiful park. In the former Eastern sector is the famous Unter den Linden Avenue lined with lime trees, the Brandenburg Gate, the State Opera House and the Pergamon with its impressive collection of Greco-Roman Antiquities including the Pergamon Altar and the richly worked Market Gate from Miletus. Overnight Berlin.



DAY 3: POTSDAM / MAGDEBURG. Morning sightseeing in Potsdam, where you will visit the palaces and gardens of Sanssouci, the residence of King Frederick II. The ornate palaces resemble Versailles in grandeur and the gardens contain grottoes, an Orangerie, Chinese Tea House, temples, etc. Continue on to Magdeburg where Luther was a student in 1497-8. He later preached important sermons in St. John's Church. Overnight at the 4 star Maritim Astoria Hotel, centrally located in Magdeburg.

DAY 4: WITTENBURG / LEIPZIG. Morning visit to Wittenburg, where Luther was a professor at the University. In 1517 he posted on the doors of the Wittenberg Church his list of 95 points condemning the practice of indulgences and recalling the places of the Sacrifice on the Cross and of God's grace. Visit the town church of St. Mary's, where he preached, and the Castle Church, where Luther is buried. See the Town Hall with its monument to Luther by Schadow and Luther House, where he lived for most of the time from 1524.



The Luther House is the largest museum of reformation history in the world. Continue on to Leipzig for overnight at a selected hotel in the city centre.

DAY 5: LEIPZIG / EISLEBEN / ERFURT. The disputation between Luther and Dr. Ede took place in Pleissenburg Castle in Leipzig. Visit St. Thomas Church, where Luther preached. Drive via the town of Mansfeld, where Luther spent his childhood to Eisleben, where you can visit the house where Luther was born on November 10, 1483, and the one where he died on February 18, 1546. Visit St. Andrea's Church, where he preached his last sermon and the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, where he was baptized. Continue on via Bad Frankenhausen, the scene of the decisive battle of the Peasants' War, where 6,000 peasants were slain, to Erfurt for overnight at the **Zumnorde am Anger**, a 4 star property located in the city center. In 1505 Luther entered the Augustinian Monastery in Erfurt, where he studied and taught in the Faculty of Theology in 1512/3. Visit to the church and monastery.



DAY 6: EISENACH / COBURG / NÜRNBERG. Visit the town of Eisenach, where Luther went to live under the protection of the Duke of Saxony after being banned by the Diet of Worms. Visit Luther's room, where he lived in the Wartburg Castle while translating the New Testament in 1521/2. Travel via Coburg, where Luther lived in the Fortress while the Augsburg Imperial Diet was in session. Visit the Luther Room and royal quarters with the Luther chapel in the fortress. Continue on to Nürnberg, the first Imperial town into which the Reformation was introduced in 1525. Other points of interest you can visit are the famous 14th century Gothic fountain in the Hauptmarkt, the 15th century gabled house of Albrecht Dürer and German National Museum (Germanisches Nationalmuseum), where many of Dürer's works are displayed. Overnight at the 4 star **Grand Hotel** in Nürnberg.



DAY 7: AUGSBURG / ROTHENBURG. Visit Augsburg, where in 1518 there were disputations between Luther and the Papal legate at the Imperial Diets. In 1530 the Augsburg Confession, the Protestant confession of faith was stated for the first time. Ever since 1648 the town has commemorated religious equality by holding the "High Augsburg Peace Festival" on the 8th of August. Augsburg was also the home of the Papal bankers, the "Fuggers", and it was their lending activities that required the selling of the indulgences against which Luther protested in the 95 Thesis in 1517.

From Augsburg, drive along the Romantic Road to Donauwörth and on to Nördlingen, which is completely encircled by a wall. St. George's Church has an ornate Baroque altarpiece. Dinkelsbühl is a medieval town with surrounding ramparts, watchtowers and gabled houses. The walled city of Rothenburg is the highlight of the Romantic Road. Stroll through the Old Town with its quaint shops and admire the traditional German architecture. The church in Detwang has an altarpiece by Tilman Riemenschneider. Overnight at the **Tilman Riemenschneider Hotel**, a charming 16th century First Class hotel located in the old part of Rothenburg.



DAY 8: DEPARTURE. After breakfast this morning guests are transferred to Frankfurt airport, where our services end.

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