

In The Footsteps of Martin Luther

The History of the Reformation

Tour #3 (7 nights / 9 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Berlin, Germany

Day 2

Berlin

(D)

Arrive in Berlin

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to the hotel via panoramic tour of Berlin, including Brandenburg Gate, Unter den Linden, Gendarmenmarkt, etc. Also explore Berlin's magnificent architectural treasures and experience the city's amazing transformation by a 1-hour boat cruise on the River Spree

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Berlin owes its economic and cultural dynamism today to the fact that both the Federal Republic and what used to be called East Germany had for thirty years been determined to use the city as a shop window for their respective ways of life. Berlin became truly important under the reign of Friedrich-Wilhelm of Brandenburg. He welcomed the influx of French Huguenot craftsmen, theologians, doctors and scholars who helped transform the city and strengthen its influence on its neighbors

Day 3

Berlin

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day sightseeing of the eastern sector of Berlin with its famous Unter den Linden Strasse, (iconic boulevard of linden trees), the Russian War Memorial, and the world famous Pergamon Altar (decorated with a series of friezes showing battles and scenes from the lives of legendary historical figures). We will also see what remains of "the wall," and "Checkpoint Charley" as we pass into the western sector to experience Kurfurstendamm Strasse, home to some of Berlin's most luxurious stores. Also see Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, Berlin Dom, Reichstag, etc.

Lunch on own

Evening concert in celebration of 500 Years of the Reformation designated by the "Luther 2017 500 Jahre Reformation" organization

Evening Dinner and overnight

Day 4

Berlin / Juterborg / Wittenberg

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Wittenberg via Juterborg for a visit to Nikolaikirche. Johann Tetzel was a preacher in Juterborg who sold absolution of sins to help the Archbishop of Mainz to pay off the debts he had incurred in securing the agreement of the Pope to his acquisition of the Archbishopric. It is believed that Martin Luther was inspired to write his Ninety-Five Theses, in part, due to Tetzel's actions

Lunch on own



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Continue to Wittenberg. Sightseeing includes entrance to the Lutherhalle, a museum of the Reformation. In the room occupied by Luther, preserved in its original condition, are displayed Luther's writings, prints, medals, Luther's university lectern, his pulpit from St Mary's Church and a number of valuable pictures. Also visit the Schlosskirche. From the church's tower there are extensive views. It was to the wooden doors of this church that Luther nailed his 95 "Theses" in October 1517. The original doors were destroyed by fire during the Seven Years War; the present bronze doors, bearing the Latin text of the Theses, were installed in 1858. In the church is the tomb of Melancthon and Luther, and on the columns of the nave are life-size figures of Luther, Melancthon and other Reformers

Evening concert

Evening Dinner and overnight

Wittenberg is located on Elbe River. It was a medieval center, famed as the birthplace of the Reformation. Wittenberg is of such importance in Luther's life that its official name is Lutherstadt- Wittenberg (Luther City Wittenberg)

Day 5

Wittenberg / Eisleben / Halle / Leipzig (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Leipzig via Eisleben. Martin Luther was born and died in the small city of Eisleben (Luther had a special affection for this city now officially known as "Luther-City Eisleben" *Lutherstadt Eisleben*). During our tour, we'll have the honor of visiting Luther's birth house which is now a well-preserved museum

Lunch on own

Continue on to Halle, birthplace of George Friderich Handel. Our tour includes *Händel House*, built in 1558 and now a museum housing a collection of historic music instruments and an exhibition about the composer's life. Then it is off to Leipzig for dinner and overnight

Leipzig has musical associations with some of the greatest of all composers: Bach worked and lived here a big part of his life; Mendelssohn was born and lived here; Wagner was born here (but never lived here), and Halle is the birthplace of Georg Frederick Händel

Day 6

Leipzig

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day tour includes seeing Altes Rathaus, St. Nicholas Church, with its undistinguished outward façade but interior soaring Gothic choir and nave (Martin Luther is said to have preached from the ornate 16th-century pulpit), and St. Thomas Church which was originally built as part of a 13th-century monastery and which was heavily restored after World War II. Martin Luther preached here in 1539 heralding the arrival of Protestantism in Leipzig

Sing a recital in the Thomaskirche

Lunch on own

Bach's 12 children and the infant Richard Wagner were baptized here in the early 17th-century, and both Mozart and Mendelssohn performed here. Bach was choirmaster at this church for 27 years and served in St. Nicholas Church as well. Entrance is included to the Bach Museum

Evening concert in celebration of 500 Years of the Reformation designated by the "Luther 2017 500 Jahre Reformation" organization

Evening Dinner and overnight



Day 7**Leipzig / Dresden / Prague (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Prague via Dresden. A half-day guided tour of this "Florence on the Elbe" includes the world-famous Zwinger Palace including the Old Masters Gallery, the Semperoper, the Cathedral, and the Neustadt Quarter

Lunch on own

Continue to Prague for dinner and overnight

Prague achieved much of its present glory in the 14th century, during the long reign of Charles IV, king of Bohemia and Moravia and Holy Roman Emperor. During the Middle Ages, Prague enjoyed a golden age - a time when Prague was larger than Paris or London! The Hapsburgs also left their artistic and architectural mark. Today, Prague is universally declared one of the most beautiful cities in Europe

**Day 8****Prague (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning guided tour of Prague that includes seeing the Charles Bridge, Old Town Square, the Tyn Church, the Astronomical Clock, and the Jewish Quarter. Also visit the Castle District, where entrance is included to Hradcany Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace, the Golden Lane, and Daliborka Tower

Lunch on own

Afternoon/evening concert

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

**Day 9****Depart for home (B)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Prague's airport for return flight

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.



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