

Luther & Bach:
A Musical/Reformation Study Tour
of Germany
featuring Berlin, Wattenberg, Dresden & more



Day 1 **BERLIN**
We depart today on our transatlantic jet bound for Berlin. (meals aloft)

DAY 2 **ARRIVE BERLIN**
We arrive to Berlin today and are met at the airport by our English-speaking assistant who guides us to our waiting coach. Germany's capital is a multicultural metropolis, a city of approximately 3.5 million people living in an area roughly the size of New York City. It was in Berlin that the historic "fall of the wall" took place on November 9, 1989. We transfer to our hotel for check-in, with the remainder of the day at leisure. (meals aloft,D)

Day 3 **BERLIN**
This morning we tour this once-divided city. We see the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, Tiergarten and the Olympic Stadium, the Reichstag, and the Brandenburg Gate. We see Checkpoint Charlie, which became a symbol of the Cold War, representing the separation of east and west, and – for the East Germans – a gateway to freedom. We tour the Pergamon Museum, containing the spectacular Pergamon Altar and Ishtar Gate of Ancient Babylon. The afternoon is at leisure for us to further explore Berlin on our own. (B)

Day 4 **BERLIN/POTSDAM/
WITTENBERG**
We enjoy some time at leisure in Berlin this morning, and then we drive to Potsdam, which served as the residence of the Prussian kings and German Kaisers, until 1918. Here we tour Sanssouci, the palace constructed by King Frederick in the mid-18th century as a private summer getaway where the royal family could escape the formality of the court in Berlin. Open to the public as a tourist attraction since the end of World War II, the gardens also house Frederick's tomb. Following our tour of the palace we proceed to Wittenberg for check-in at our hotel. (B)

Day 5 **WITTENBERG**
Today we tour Wittenberg, birthplace of the Reformation and city of Frederick the Wise who was patron and protector of Martin Luther. Luther lived here from 1508 until his death. We visit the his-

toric All Saints Castle Church and its famous door where he nailed his 95 Theses and which contains the graves of Luther and Melancton. We see the University and visit the Luther House, which is the largest and greatest museum of Reformation history in the world. We see the Luther monument and the renaissance Town Hall. Following our touring, the remainder of the day is at leisure with overnight at our hotel. (B)

Day 6 **WITTENBERG/DRESDEN**
We depart Wittenberg this morning and drive to Dresden, known as "Florence of the Elbe" because of its Baroque-style architecture and numerous world-renowned museums and art collections. Here we tour the Frauenkirche, the Church of our Lady, which was reduced to a pile of rubble during World War II. Beginning in January 1993, the church was carefully rebuilt using thousands of stones from the original destroyed church that had been meticulously catalogued and stored for a half-century. Completed in 2005, the church has hosted millions of visitors while still offering two devotional services per day. After our visit we proceed to our hotel for overnight. (B)

Day 7 **DRESDEN/LEIPZIG**
We depart Dresden this morning and drive to Leipzig, which has been an important influence in European commercial and intellectual life for centuries. Historical shopping arcades, lovingly restored, are typical of the architecture in the city center with its great shops and vibrant cultural scene. We tour the Mendelssohn House Museum which has been carefully restored to appear as it did when the composer lived there in the mid-19th century. Also in Leipzig today we visit St. Nicholas Church, built in 1165 and the center of peaceful revolt against Communist rule some eight centuries later. We conclude our afternoon at St. Thomas Church, best known as the place where Johann Sebastian Bach worked as a cantor and also his final resting place. After our visit we proceed to our hotel for overnight. (B)

Day 8 **HALLE/EISLEBEN/LEIPZIG**
Today we travel to Halle, where the University of Halle, famous for its role in the history of missions,

is located. In Halle we visit the Handel House Museum, the birthplace and boyhood home of Georg Friedrich Handel. From there we travel to Eisleben, the birthplace of Luther in 1483, and view the Luther Monument. We see St. Andrew's Church, where Luther preached his last sermon. Luther was only one year old when his family moved away from Eisleben, but by chance he was again in Eisleben near the end of his life and died here in 1546. From here we return to Leipzig for overnight. (B)

Day 9 **ERFURT/WEIMAR**

We depart Leipzig this morning and travel to Erfurt where we visit Erfurt Cathedral and the Augustinian Monastery where Luther studied to become a monk and where he was ordained in 1507. We also visit the small cell where as a novice Luther struggled to find peace with God. We continue to Weimar, home of the Stadtkirche St. Peter and Paul, where the famous Lucas Cranach masterpieces of Luther are located. Famous for its cultural heritage, Weimar was the focal point of the German Enlightenment. The city was once home to notables such as Friedrich Schiller, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Franz Liszt. Today the city hosts a number of UNESCO World Heritage sites, and in 2011 celebrates the 200th birthday of Liszt. Later today we check into our hotel for overnight. (B)

Day 10 **EISENACH/MAGDEBURG**

Today we depart Weimar and travel to Eisenach, birthplace of Johann Sebastian Bach. Here we visit Bachhaus Eisenach, located in the house presumed to be his birthplace, and now the first museum in the world dedicated to Johann Sebastian Bach. Eisenach is also where Luther attended Latin school for three years. From Eisenach we go to Wartburg Castle, set high in the Thuringian Mountains. It was here in 1521 that Luther was put into protective custody for ten months, after the Emperor condemned him as an outlaw and heretic. During this time Luther completed his translation of the New Testament into German, a tremendous linguistic task that served as the basis for the New High German. Luther's room is preserved in its original condition. Later this afternoon we drive on to Magdeburg for overnight. (B)

Day 11 **MAGDEBURG/BERLIN**

This morning we tour Magdeburg. Martin Luther was called here in 1524, and the city eventually gained a reputation as a stronghold of Protestantism, becoming the first major city to publish the writings of Luther. We tour the Cathedral of Magdeburg, officially called the Cathedral of Saints Catherine and Maurice. The oldest gothic cathedral in Germany, it was constructed over a period of 300 years beginning in 1209. This afternoon we continue on to Berlin for overnight. (B)

Day 12 **BERLIN/USA**

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our return flight to the States. (B,meals aloft)

All sites listed in the itinerary will be covered but the sequence and days may be altered to adjust to religious holidays, special closings of sites, air schedules, etc. Hotels listed subject to confirmation.