

American Celebration of Music in Germany

Standard Tour #1 (6 nights / 8 days)

Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Berlin, Germany

Day 2

Berlin / Dresden

(D)

Arrive in Berlin

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for a transfer to Dresden hotel

Welcome Dinner

Dresden - thanks to an exceptional artistic and architectural heritage (Dresden has been nicknamed the "Florence of the Elbe"), it has become one of the most popular and important tourist centers in Germany. Electors Augustus II and III built the magnificent Baroque Zwinger, the Japanese Palace, Hofkirche and assembled outstanding collections of paintings and objets d'art. Today, Dresden's museums, its opera (Semper-Oper), the Staatskapelle and the Staatsoper orchestras enjoy a worldwide reputation

Day 3

Dresden

(B,D)

A morning guided tour of Dresden includes the world-famous Zwinger Palace with its Old Masters Gallery, the Cathedral, and the Neustadt Quarter
Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany

Day 4

Meissen / Leipzig

(B,D)

Transfer to Leipzig

Stop in Meissen, which lies 15km northwest of Dresden at the junction of the Triebisch and the Meisa with the Elbe. With a history going back more than 1,000 years, it has many fine old buildings but is chiefly famed for its porcelain manufactory, the first to be established in Europe. Visit a porcelain factory before continuing on into Leipzig

Upon arrival in Leipzig, enjoy a guided tour of Leipzig which includes the Former Town Hall, St. Nicholas Church, St. Thomas Church (famous because Bach was the organist and choirmaster here, and it is the home of the St. Thomas Boys Choir, one of the most famous in the world), the Bach Museum, Augustusplatz, and the Battle of the Nations Monument

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 nearby Halle is the birthplace of Georg Frederick Händel

Day 5

Leipzig / Halle

(B,D)

A morning *Musical Heritage Tour* includes a visit to Halle to visit the birthplace of Händel. In addition to the composer's personal effects, the museum houses an exhibition of musical instruments and history of music in the region

Enjoy an afternoon at leisure

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany



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Day 6**Leipzig / Berlin****(B,D)**

Transfer from Leipzig to Berlin

Afternoon guided tour of Berlin, including Unter den Linden, Kurfürstendamm, Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Berlin Dom (Cathedral), and entrance to the Reichstag, the Imperial Parliament, a huge and elegantly proportioned Neo-Renaissance palace. Then explore Berlin's magnificent architectural treasures and experience the city's amazing transformation by boat on a one-hour cruise on the River Spree. Float from Berlin's historic city center, the Nikolai District, past the Berlin Dom and the Museum Island, all the way to brand new Chancellery, the seat of the German government, and the House of Culture

Berlin, for so long a symbol of the world's division into two opposing camps, 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 7****Berlin****(B,D)**

Morning sightseeing includes a visit to Charlottenburg Palace. With the Berlin Municipal Palace destroyed, Charlottenburg Palace is now Berlin's best example of the architectural passions and skills of the Prussian kings. The Palace and park are open to the public. In addition to the Historical Apartments, the Palace houses the Museum of Prehistory and the Gallery of Romanticism from the New National Gallery. Other features of interest in the park are the Schinkel Pavilion, the Belvedere and the Mausoleum
Enjoy an afternoon at leisure

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany
Farewell Dinner

**Day 8****Depart for home****(B)**

Transfer to Berlin's International Airport for the return flight
Return home in the evening of the same day



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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