

MARTIN LUTHER AND JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH 500 years of the Reformation

Tour #2 (7 nights / 9 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Frankfurt, Germany.

Day 2 Frankfurt / Eisenach (D)

Arrive in Frankfurt. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to Eisenach. Upon arrival in Eisenach, enjoy a panoramic tour en route to your hotel. Hotel check-in. Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight.

Eisenach is the birthplace of Johann Sebastian Bach and also the site of the famous Wartburg Castle where Martin Luther began translating the New Testament into German in 1521.

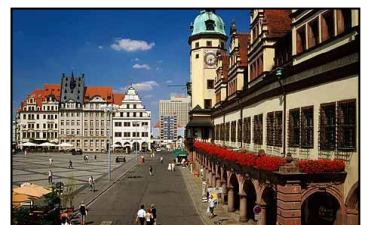
Day 3 Eisenach (B,D)

Today drive up a steep forested slope to one of the best-preserved medieval castles in Germany, Wartburg Castle, which was founded in 1067 and which looms over the city of Eisenach. It was at Wartburg Castle that Martin Luther, disguised as "Knight George," translated the New Testament into German. Of the experience, Luther said "I fought the Devil with ink." At the castle there is a museum containing mainly Reformation artifacts, including paintings, sculptures, weapons, furniture and tapestries, and the *Lutherstube*, the room where Luther did the translating. Eisenach was home to Martin Luther as a child, and it was also the birthplace of Johann Sebastian Bach. We will visit the *Lutherhaus*, one of the oldest and most picturesque half-timbered buildings remaining in Eisenach and now a museum featuring multimedia exhibits relating Luther's teachings. Time permitting; also visit the *Bachhaus*, the first worldwide museum to be dedicated to the life and work of Johann Sebastian Bach. *Evening concert in celebration of the "Reformation und Musik" designated by the "Luther 2017 500 Jahre Reformation" organization.*

Day 4 Eisenach / Erfurt / Leipzig (B,D)

Transfer to Leipzig via Erfurt, nicknamed "Thuringian Rome" because of its many churches, chapels and monasteries. Erfurt played a significant role in the life of Martin Luther—for it is here he spent six years studying at the University then living as a monk in the Augustinian Monastery. We will enjoy a tour through this richly beautiful, medieval city, to explore some unforgettable sites including the Augustinian Monastery wherein is housed a Luther Exhibition showing restored monastic cells as they might have looked in Luther's time. We will also visit Severikirche (church of St. Severus), known for its huge baptismal font and the monument tomb to St. Severus. Continue 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 5 Leipzig (B,D)

Half-day tour includes seeing Altes Rathaus, St. Nicholas Church, with its undistinguished outward façade (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. *Sing a recital in the Thomaskirche.* Martin Luther preached here in 1539 heralding the arrival of Protestantism in Leipzig. 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. Entrance is included to the Bach Museum. *Evening concert in celebration of the "Reformation und Musik" designated by the "Luther 2017 500 Jahre Reformation" organization.*



Day 6 Leipzig / Eisleben (B,D)

Full-day excursion to 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 seeing Luther's birth house and death house which are both now well-preserved museums. 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. Return to Leipzig for dinner and overnight.



Day 7 Leipzig / Wittenberg / Berlin (B,D)

Transfer to Berlin via Wittenberg. Sightseeing in Wittenberg 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 Melanchthon and Luther, and on the columns of the nave are life-size figures of Luther, Melanchthon and other Reformers. Continue to Berlin for 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.

Day 8 Berlin (B)

Take a guided tour of Berlin that includes seeing the Unter den Linden, Kurfürstendamm, Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Berlin Dom), and entrance to the Reichstag, the Imperial Parliament, an elegantly proportioned Neo-Renaissance palace. Also explore Berlin's magnificent architectural treasures and experience the city's amazing transformation by a 1-hour boat cruise on the River Spree. *Evening concert in celebration of the "Reformation und Musik" designated by the "Luther 2017 500 Jahre Reformation" organization.* Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight.



Day 9 Depart for home (B)

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