

THE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION

500 years 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. 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)

Half-day guided tour of Berlin, including Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Berlin Dom (Cathedral), Alexanderplatz, St. Nicholas Quarter, Kurfurstendamm Quarter, Reichstag, Museum Quarter and entrance to the Reichstag, the Imperial Parliament, and a huge and elegantly proportioned Neo-Renaissance palace. *Evening concert in celebration of the "Reformation und Musik" designated by the "Luther 2017 500 Jahre Reformation" organization.*



Day 4

Berlin / Juterborg / Wittenberg

(B,D)

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. 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 Melanchthon and Luther, and on the columns of the nave are life-size figures of Luther, Melanchthon and other Reformers. *Evening concert.*



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 / Leipzig (B,D)

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 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. 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)

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.* 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 the "Reformation und Musik" designated by the "Luther 2017 500 Jahre Reformation" organization.*



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

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. Continue to Prague for 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.



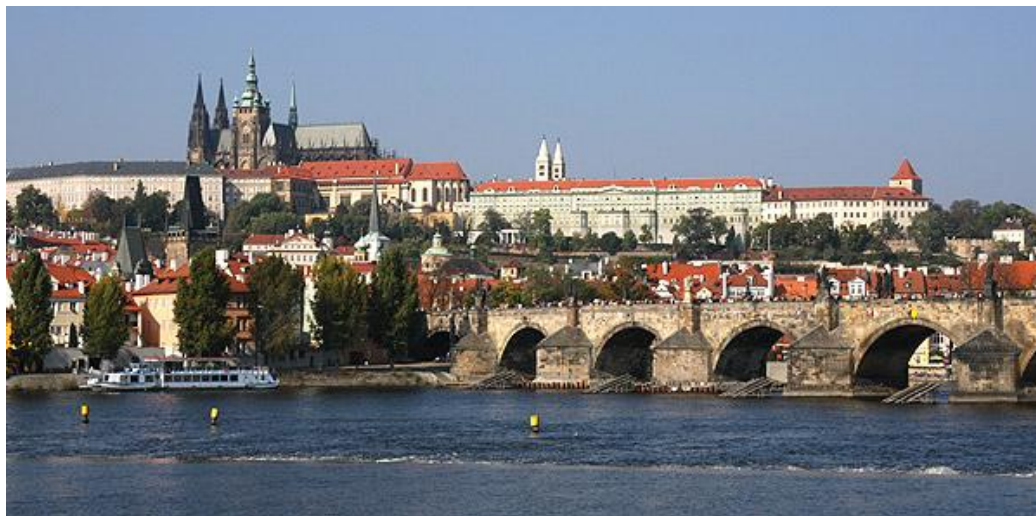
Day 8 **Prague** **(B)**

Morning guided tour of Prague that includes seeing the Charles Bridge, Old Town Square with its Tyn Church and the Astronomical Clock, the Jewish Quarter, and also visiting Hradcany Castle, including its St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace, the Golden Lane, and the Daliborka Tower. *Afternoon/evening concert.* Farewell Dinner and overnight.



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

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



Prague