



THE LUTHER PATH

500 years of the Reformation

Tour #4 (8 nights / 10 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 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.

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 others.

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 / Torgau / Leipzig (B,D)

Transfer to Leipzig via Torgau. Visit Hartenfels Palace. Housed in one of the palace wings is Schloßkirche, which was consecrated on 5 October 1544 by Martin Luther. It is widely regarded as the first ever Protestant church, and the first embodiment of the Reformation message in architecture and art. Also visit St. Mary's Church where Luther's wife, Katharina von Bora, is buried and the Katharina Luther Museum. Continue to Leipzig for sightseeing including seeing St. Thomas Church where Martin Luther preached 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, 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.

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 / 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. To celebrate the composer, Halle stages an annual Handel festival every June. Return to Leipzig for dinner and overnight. *Evening concert in celebration of the "Reformation und Musik" designated by the "Luther 2017 500 Jahre Reformation" organization.*

Day 7 Leipzig / Erfurt (B,D)

Transfer to Erfurt. 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. *Evening concert in celebration of the "Reformation und Musik" designated by the "Luther 2017 500 Jahre Reformation" organization.*

Erfurt is nicknamed "Thuringian Rome" because of its many churches, chapels and monasteries. Erfurt played a significant role in the life of Martin Luther—it is here he spent six years studying at the University then living as a monk in the Augustinian Monastery.

Day 8 Erfurt / Eisenach / Mainz (B,D)

Transfer to Mainz via Eisenach. Drive up a steep forested slope to one of the best-preserved medieval castles in Germany, Wartburg Castle, 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. Continue to Mainz for dinner and overnight.



Mainz, capital of the Land of Rhineland-Palatinate and a university town, a former Electoral and Archbishopal capital with a great past, is situated on the left bank of the Rhine opposite the mouth of the Main. It lies in the fertile Mainz Basin, the most northerly part of the Upper Rhine plain, and is the western focal point of the Rhine-Main economic region. It is Gutenberg's city, with important publishing houses.



Day 9 Mainz (B)

Full-day sightseeing includes visits to Gutenberg Museum (containing Gutenberg's original hand press and its prized exhibit, the world-famous Gutenberg Bible) and St. Martin's Cathedral. Above the roofs of the half-timbered houses in the Old Town of Mainz rise the six towers of St. Martin's Cathedral marking the high point of Romanesque cathedral architecture in Germany. Also visit Worms. Martin Luther was summoned to Worms in 1521 by Emperor Karl V in order to justify his "heretical" conduct towards the Roman Catholic Church (Diet at Worms). Luther refused to retract his beliefs.



Sightseeing includes a visit to St. Peter's Cathedral and the Luther Statue. Return to Mainz for an evening Farewell Dinner and overnight.



Day 10 Depart for home (B)

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