

Martin Luther and the Reformation

Venture through Thuringia, Saxony South Germany and experience the dramatic beginnings of the Reformation in the years 1517 to 1525 and its influences on world history as we visit the most important sites pertaining to this movement. An introduction into Luther's theology, his understanding of the bible and his Doctrine of Justification will also play an important role. We will delve into his tumultuous epoch marked by upheaval and transition from the Middle Ages to the Modern Ages, showing the influences that affect us even today.

Day 1: Upon arrival in **Berlin**, you meet your tour escort who will accompany you throughout your journey. You begin your stay in Germany with a sightseeing tour – featuring the city center with the **Kaiser Wilhelm Church**, **Nikolai Quarter**, **Unter den Linden**, **Checkpoint Charlie**, the **Brandenburg Gate**, **Reichstag** and **Charlottenburg Palace**. Overnight. **D**

Day 2: Following breakfast you board the coach into the “Lands of Luther” to **Wittenberg**. You visit Luther Hall, the Augustinian monastery where Luther lived as a monk and later with his family, the Market Square and Town Hall; tour “All Saints Church “Schlosskirche”, famous site where Luther posted his 95 Theses on the Castle Church door sparking the beginning of the Reformation and tour St. Mary's Church, where Luther did the majority of his preaching. Overnight. **B,D**

Day 3: After breakfast you continue your journey to **Torgau**: Martin Luther sanctified the **Castle Church** as the first Protestant church. The tombstone of Katharina von Bora can be found in **St. Mary's Church**. The unique memorial for her is located in her last residence. Then you continue to **Leipzig**, where Luther preached and Bach served as cantor. You visit the magnificent **St. Thomas Church**, **St. Nicolai Church** and the **Market Square** with its fine Renaissance buildings. In 2012 the famous St. Thomas boys choir will commemorate its 800th anniversary. Overnight. **B,D**

Day 4: After breakfast you drive to **Dresden**: You explore on a city tour the **Old City**, including the **Semper Opera**, the **Court Church**, the **Zwinger Gallery** and the **Frauenkirche** - the most important Protestant Church in pre-war Germany. It was destroyed in 1945. Reconstruction of the Frauenkirche began in 1994 and after many years of rebuilding was rededicated in 2006. Return to Leipzig for overnight. **B,D**

Day 5: In the morning you continue on to **Eisleben** and tour the houses where Luther was born and died. You then head on to **St. Peter's Church** where Luther was baptized, **St. Andrews Church** where Luther preached his last four sermons and where his body was laid in state. Continue on to **Erfurt** for overnights. **B,D**

Day 6: Following breakfast you tour **Erfurt**, the spiritual home of Martin Luther. The walking tour includes **St. Mary's Cathedral**, where Luther was ordained as a priest, the **Augustinian Monastery** with a permanent exhibit depicting Luther's life as a monk in Erfurt and to the church of **St. Severus**. Overnight. **B,D**

Day 7: Following breakfast, drive to **Eisenach** to visit **St. George's Church** where St. Elisabeth was married and J.S. Bach baptized. Tour the **Luther House** housing the Luther exhibition. The next stop takes you to the magnificent **Wartburg Castle** for a tour of the Palas (Great Hall), Art exhibition, the Elisabeth Hallway and the Luther Room where “Junker Jörg” (the Knight George) translated the New Testament into German. In the afternoon, board the coach for **Coburg**. Overnight. **B,D**

Day 8: Coburg: visit the famous Veste Coburg, the fortress where Luther took refuge and lived during the Augsburg Confession. You see the Luther Room, the art treasures in the various collections and the royal building with the Luther Chapel. You then tour the city before departing for **Rothenburg ob der Tauber:** Take a glimpse into the middleages, at perhaps the most famous town on the “Romantik Road”, a nearly intact medieval walled-city without a single modern building within and tour the city. You travel the “**Romantic Road**” past quaint towns and villages before arriving in **Augsburg.** Overnight. **B,D**

Day 9: Augsburg: following breakfast you explore the city with its magnificent Renaissance buildings - dated from the 15th and 16th centuries - give the city its unique character. Martin Luther stayed at the monastery of **St. Anna church** in 1518, during his confrontation with Cardinal Cajetan. Then onward to **Heidelberg area** for 2 overnights. **B,D**

Day 10: Worms: Luther was summoned in 1521 to appear before an Imperial Diet to justify his conduct. You visit the world’s largest **Memorial to the Reformation** and the **Church of the Holy Trinity**, Europe’s oldest Jewish cemetery, the **Holy Sands** and the former Jewish quarter. Visit **St. Peter’s Cathedral**, situated on the highest elevation of the inner city. The cathedral is one of the most exquisite examples of Romanesque architecture. You board the coach for **Heidelberg**, a gorgeous town on the Neckar River, Our walking tour includes the Old Town, the famous Stone Bridge over the Neckar River, the Heidelberg Castle (where the Heidelberg Confession was written in 1653), the Castle Church, German Apothecary Museum, and the Church of the Holy Ghost. Return to your hotel. **B,D**

Day 12: Following breakfast you travel north to **Mainz** and visit the birthplace of printing, the **Gutenberg Museum:** Gutenberg’s first Bible is on display, also the world’s tiniest Bible. Then you tour **St. Martin's Cathedral**, built in the 8th century. Seven king's coronations took place in the Mainz cathedral. If time is still available visit **St. Stephen’s Church**, famous for its marvelous Chagall windows. In the afternoon you relax on a farewell Rhine river cruise. Overnight. **B,D**

Day 13: Transfer to Frankfurt airport and depart home.